

# The Numismatist

FOR COLLECTORS OF COINS, MEDALS, TOKENS AND PAPER MONEY



**Dr. Lewis Roper:  
Dentist, Photographer, Numismatist**

*by Joel J. Orosz*



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# 2001 Auction Schedule

## Auction Date

## Location

|                                    |                                                                                                  |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| January 3, 2001 .....              | Orlando, Florida<br><i>The Rarities Sale</i>                                                     |
| March 1, 2001 .....                | Kingswood Galleries<br><i>(Mail Bid and Internet Auction)</i>                                    |
| March 15-17, 2001 .....            | Baltimore, Maryland<br><i>(in conjunction with the Suburban Washington/Baltimore Convention)</i> |
| April 12, 2001 .....               | Kingswood Galleries<br><i>(Mail Bid and Internet Auction)</i>                                    |
| May 21-23, 2001 .....              | New York City, New York                                                                          |
| June 7, 2001 .....                 | Kingswood Galleries<br><i>(Mail Bid and Internet Auction)</i>                                    |
| June 29-July 1, 2001 .....         | Chicago, Illinois<br><i>(with the MidAmerica Coin Expo)</i>                                      |
| August 5-7, 2001 .....             | Atlanta, Georgia<br><i>The Rarities Sale</i>                                                     |
| September 14-16, 2001 .....        | New York City, New York                                                                          |
| October 11, 2001 .....             | Kingswood Galleries<br><i>(Mail Bid and Internet Auction)</i>                                    |
| November 29-December 1, 2001 ..... | Baltimore, Maryland<br><i>(in conjunction with the Suburban Washington/Baltimore Convention)</i> |

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# The Numismatist

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JOEL J. OROSZ

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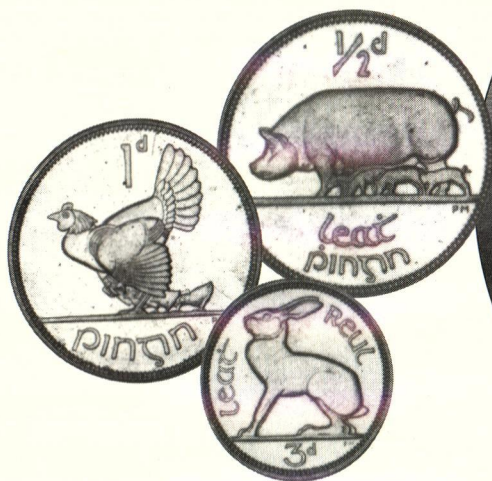
DAVID F. FANNING

### IRISH NUMISMATICS

#### The Bard and the Barnyard

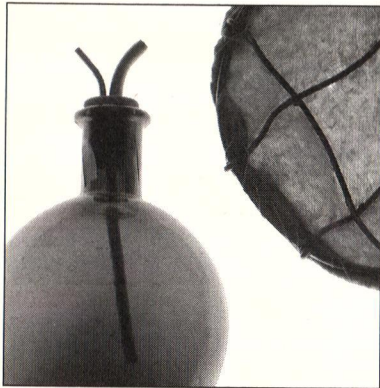
42 In 1928 the newly formed Republic of Ireland launched a national coinage based on animal themes with the assistance of poet and patriot William Butler Yeats.

MITCH SANDERS



Nobel Prize-winning poet William Butler Yeats was chairman of the committee that selected designs for the Republic of Ireland's new coinage (page 42).

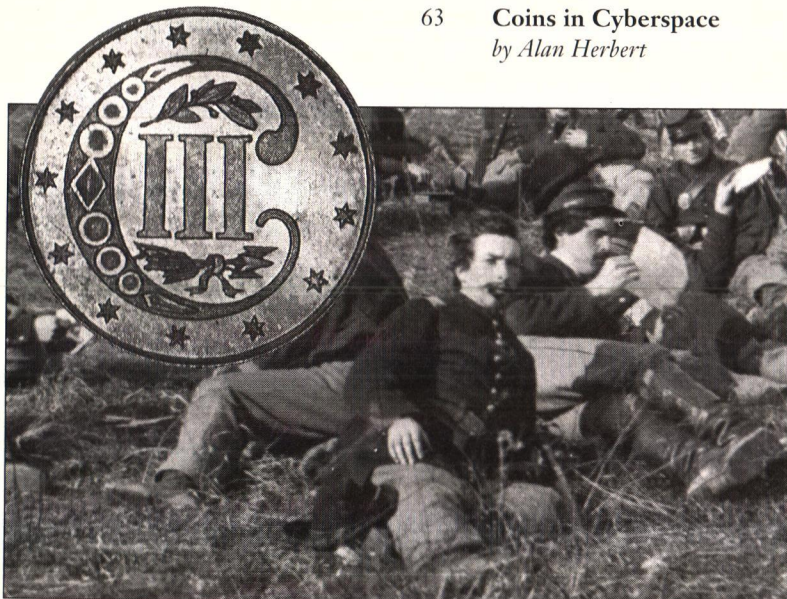




COVER

An ether bottle and mask were just two tools of the trade for Dr. Lewis Roper, a little-known trailblazer in the field of numismatics (page 28).

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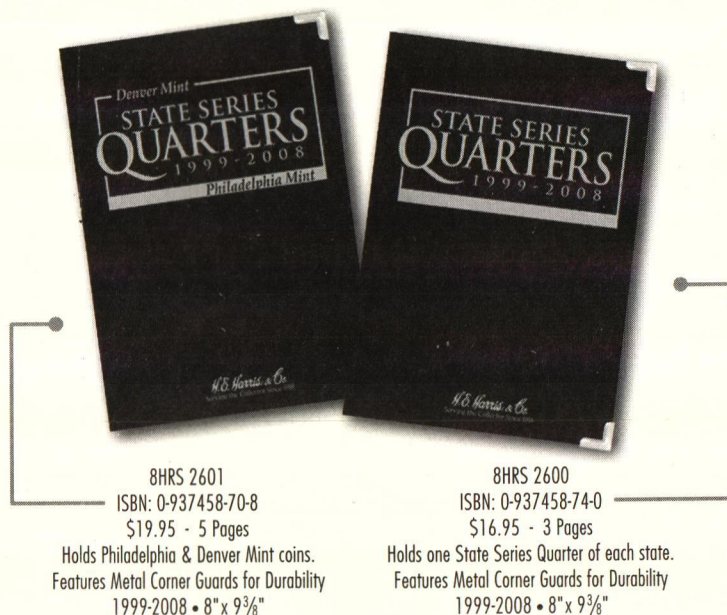
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Silver coins were hoarded during the Civil War, creating a shortage of small change for soldiers as well as civilians (page 36).



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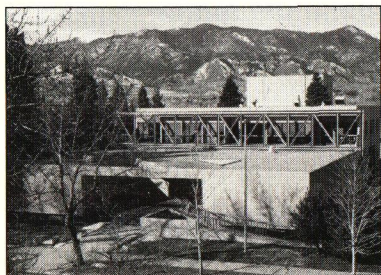
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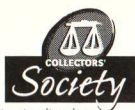
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# Come to Salt Lake City for a Great Show!

**A**S ANA PRESIDENT and convention general chairman, let me personally invite you to the ANA's National Money Show™ 2001 on March 8-10 in Salt Lake City. I encourage you to attend the convention and visit my home town—where the XXIX Winter Olympic Games will be held next year.

One of the many things I have promoted as ANA president is to make this early spring convention more than an average coin show by adding a variety of activities. This year, the National Money Show will offer something for everyone, from a world-class auction by Superior Coin Galleries to Numismatic Theatre presentations covering topics ranging from the "Making of Mormon Gold" to "How to Detect Artificial Toning on Coins." The extensive exhibits will include the "Ship of Gold"—a partial replica of the S.S. *Central America* that sank in 1857 filled with California gold-rush coins and gold bars. The display features \$20 million of recovered material, including my favorite, stacks of 1857-S double eagles still cemented together after more than a century on the ocean floor.

On Thursday, March 8—opening day—the ANA has arranged for a "once in a lifetime" excursion to the Olympic Sports Park near the famous celebrity hang-out of Park City, Utah. Here you will have the opportunity to ride the bobsled course with a professional driver and brakeman. This will be the last chance before the 2002 Winter Olympic Games to ride the state-of-the-art ice track, so I hope you will join me for an adventure we can describe to our grandchildren.

FROM YOUR  
PRESIDENT  
.....  
BY H. ROBERT CAMPBELL

On Friday, March 9, the Friendship Luncheon will be held at the Tuscany, a wonderful Italian hunting lodge at the base of Cottonwood Canyon. Owned by Mark Eaton, who played professional basketball with the Utah Jazz, the restaurant offers

desserts my wife, Carol, says are "to die for."

That evening, the three local clubs hosting the ANA National Money Show—the Utah Numismatic Society, Ogden Coin Club and National Utah Token Society—are coordinating a western barbecue, complete with entertainment. We're asking everyone to come prepared for a "hunkering good ol' time."

On Saturday, March 10, the ANA will host coin-collecting badge workshops for Scouts. Throughout the three-day show, young collectors also can participate in the ANA's YN Treasure Trivia Game, which is filled with numismatic prizes and fun.

After the convention, on Sunday, March 11, there will be a breakfast and an opportunity to hear the Mormon Tabernacle Choir at historic Temple Square. Everyone who attended the ANA convention in Salt Lake City in 1986 said this was the highlight of the show.

Special consideration has been made for dealers and collectors to store their coins after the convention in the ANA's Security Room in the Salt Palace Convention Center until 7:30 p.m. on Sunday. This will allow everyone a chance to enjoy a day of skiing on the nearby slopes (the "Greatest Snow on Earth") or sightsee in one of Utah's many National Parks, where the red-rock canyons and vistas are unparalleled. Museums and historic buildings in and around Temple Square, adjacent to the convention center, retell the spirit of the early pioneers who settled the Salt Lake Valley beginning in 1847. They cut out a Zion in the middle of the wilderness to pursue religious freedom.

I'm sure this show will be an experience you won't want to miss and a memory to be cherished. I look forward to seeing you at this great numismatic event. •



*ANA President Bob Campbell (LM 3663) started collecting coins as a boy in Utah. He and his wife, Carol, now own and operate All About Coins, Inc., a shop in Salt Lake City that he frequented as a youngster. A professional numismatist by trade, he remains a collector at heart. Before his election to the Board of Governors, Campbell served as national co-ordinator of the ANA's Representative Program.*

A stylized, handwritten signature of H. Robert Campbell in dark ink.



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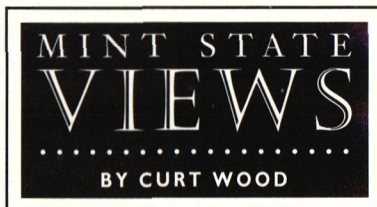
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# A Grading Proposal

I WOULD LIKE to present to the membership my idea for a new system for grading the quality of a coin's strike. "A-B-C-D Strike Grading," as I call it, is intended to complement the *Official A.N.A. Grading Standards for United States Coins*, which uses the numbers 1 through 70 to describe condition. The letter A, B, C or D would be added to a coin's grade, with "A" signifying the best strike, "B" meaning above average, "C" indicating average and "D" denoting the worst.

My system is similar to that used to evaluate scholastic achievement, which has a long history of success in our nation's schools. As such, my plan is simple and easy to understand.



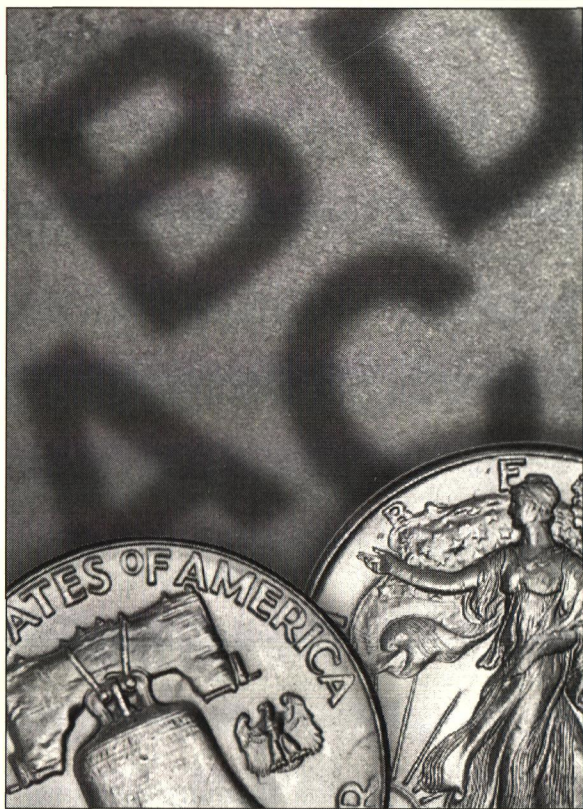
For example, a Franklin half dollar grading Mint State (MS)-70 with completely full bell lines would merit an "A" strike designation, while a similar uncirculated specimen with only 90- to 95-percent of its bell lines might be an "MS70-B." Likewise, a Mercury dime with full, split

bands would receive an "A" strike grade, as would a Standing Liberty quarter with a full head and a Walking Liberty half dollar exhibiting a full thumb.

Returning to the Franklin half-dollar example, a poorly struck specimen with mushy details and no visible bell lines, but in perfect mint-state condition, would be graded "MS70-D," far less desirable and valuable than an "MS69-A" specimen. A 1953-S Franklin half grading "MS63-C" would receive little attention in an auction, but an offering of one graded "MS70-A" would generate headlines in the numismatic press. (Imagine the commotion a 1953-S half dollar in "MS70-A" would cause! Reporters from the world's most respected newspapers would gather to watch Bill Gates and the Sultan of Brunei try to outbid one another.)

For coins of very low grade, such as About Good (AG)-3, assigning a strike grade would be irrelevant, since few collectors care much about the strike of a coin in such poor condition. As for proof coins, it might not be necessary to evaluate strike, since proofs typically are very well struck, having received a minimum of two blows from the coining press.

That is my basic proposal. It is a new and, as yet, untested idea, but so was collecting coins by mintmark a century ago, when collectors learned that an 1893-S Morgan is better than an 1893-P in the same condition. Perhaps "A-B-C-D Strike Grading" will gain acceptance and come into its own in the 21st century. If you agree, pass this idea along to those in a position to implement it. •



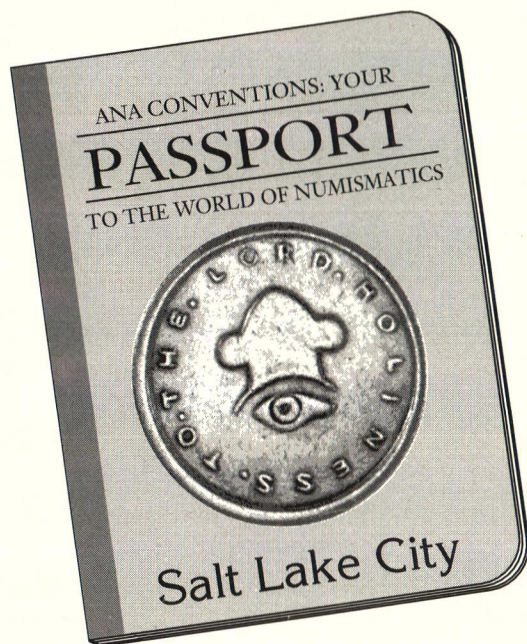
*An avid collector of coins, tokens and paper money since 1952, Curt Wood also enjoys antique books and periodicals.*

*Opinions expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of the ANA or the editorial staff.*



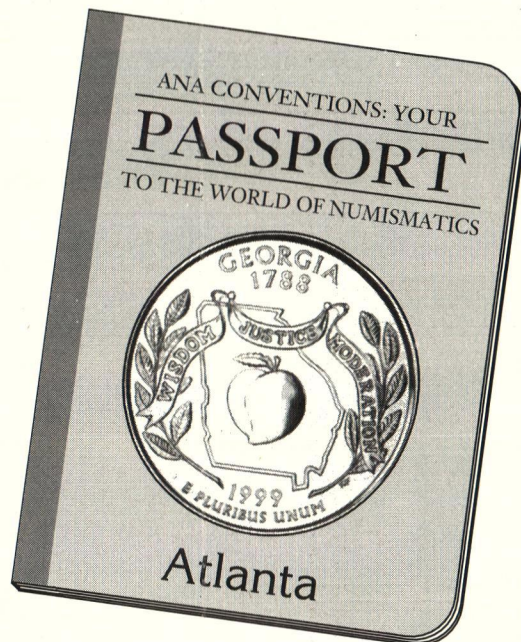
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# LETTERS

• anaedi@money.org •

## A Great Show in Hawaii

I've just returned from the annual Hawaii State Numismatic Association (HSNA) convention in Honolulu, and as always, it was a fantastic show! Besides the incomparable aura of our 50th state, the sunshine, warm weather and magnificent food, the members of the host clubs—the Honolulu Coin Club and the Big Island Coin Club—just couldn't do enough for everyone.

The three-day show proved to be one of the best I've attended. All the dealers seemed very pleased with both their sales and purchases (a

little-known secret is that Hawaii is one of the best buying areas in the United States, due to the many retirees living there), and everyone I talked to plans to return in 2001.

The Sunday banquet, complete with all the food you could possibly want (or need!), a hula demonstration by a lovely, local girl who could be the next Miss Hawaii, and island music topped off an incredible and memorable weekend.

I encourage all collectors and dealers to attend the HSNA's next convention, scheduled for November 2001. An extended stay in the islands with your family afterward is a nice perk. For information, please write to Marion Kendrick, P.O. Box 477, Honolulu, HI 96809.

Bill Fivaz, LM 1100

## Observations on Farthing Beads, Teeth and Mules

Regarding Jack Lloyd's article, "Changing Borders: The 1860 Farthing" (August 2000, p. 885), I cannot fault his observations, as there may well be the toothed/beaded metamorphosis he describes (though I have never seen it). I do, however, take exception to Michael J. Freeman's estimate as to the number of true mules, which Mr. Lloyd cites in his article.

English farthings are my specialty; I have been collecting them for 30 years. I just received a shipment of specimens to examine for possible purchase. If Freeman is correct, and there are only 50 or fewer true farthing mules, then there are only 47 left, because I am looking at three of them right now on my kitchen table

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(one of which is mine, the other two are part of the shipment). All three have a complete ring of the most perfect beads on the reverse and teeth on the obverse.

Granvyl G. Hulse Jr.

### Free Tests Allay Dealer's Fears Regarding Computer Security

I wear many hats in our small coin business, many relating to computers and cyberspace. In part, I create and manage all aspects of our web site, including all data and images therein. I've had firsthand experience with the effectiveness and importance of virus-protection software, but never had an opportunity to test the firewall—that is, until Alan Herbert mentioned the "Shields UP" site in his column "Coins in Cyberspace" (November

2000, p. 1314).

I made full use of the site's free tests and was very pleased with the results. Shields UP told me the firewall is so effective that our computer is virtually invisible to probes. This is very comforting news, both for the integrity of our system and the protection of the stored data. Thanks to Mr. Herbert for all the information he shares with collectors and industry members.

Debbi Estes, ANA 109890

*Opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the ANA or the editorial staff. THE NUMISMATIST reserves the right to edit all material for length and clarity. Direct correspondence to THE NUMISMATIST, 818 N. Cascade Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80903-3279, fax 719/634-4085. •*



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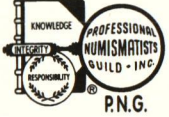


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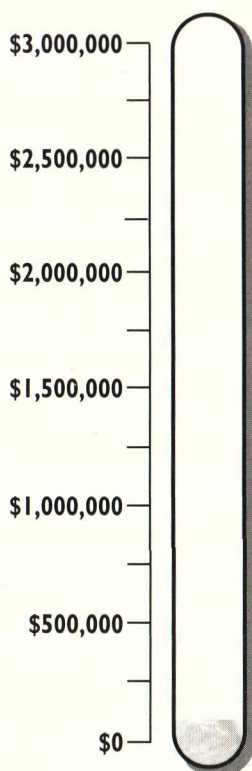


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# ANA Headquarters Renovation Fund



**TOTAL: \$82,825**

*as of December 6, 2000*

## New Pledges

### **BENEFACTOR (\$25,000+)**

Krause Publications, Inc.

### **SILVER (\$1,000+)**

Craig D. Blackstone  
Prue & Arthur M. Fitts III  
Edward C. Rochette

### **COPPER (\$25+)**

Robert K. Bruce  
John & Nancy Hummel  
L.C. Keathley  
Hugh Shull

## Krause Publications Makes \$50,000 Pledge

Krause Publications (KP) of Iola, Wisconsin, the largest numismatic hobby publishing firm, has pledged \$50,000 to the ANA headquarters renovation fund—the greatest single pledge to date.

“Krause Publications is where it is today because of numismatics,” says Clifford Mishler, chairman of the board of KP. “[We recognize the] debt this company owes to the numismatic hobby. As good corporate citizens and with a sense of responsibility to assist where we can, Krause Publications is pleased to help the ANA, an outstanding organization, prepare to meet the needs of the hobby in this new century.”

Begun simply almost 50 years ago by Chet Krause, the firm has dramatically changed the numismatic hobby and many other fields of collecting. KP has grown into an award-winning company boasting more than 600 employees, 55 periodicals and 500 books in print, serving the hobbies of vintage cars, baseball cards, comic books, records, firearms, knives, stamps, and arts and crafts. Krause Publications maintains its commitment to numismatics with *Numismatic News*, *Bank Note Reporter*, *World Coin News*, *Coins*, *Coin Prices* and *Standard Catalog of World Coins*.

The ANA currently is in the midst of a \$3 million remodeling of its Money Museum and Library. When completed next year, the renovated museum will stimulate visitors’ interest in numismatics with intriguing windows on the worlds of history, art, geography, religion, economics, sociology and architecture. In addition, the ANA web site ([www.money.org](http://www.money.org)) will feature virtual exhibits from the ever-changing displays in the museum.

“It is an honor to receive this donation from Krause Publications, not only because of the generous amount pledged, but also because the firm is owned by its employees,” says ANA Executive Director Edward C. Rochette. “It is a company filled with hundreds of people whose daily work benefits the hobby they have grown up with.”

ANA Governor and fund-raising committee chairman Barry Stuppler says, “The donation by Krause Publications is a big boost to our fund-raising efforts. It is an honor to be recognized in this way by the fine folks at Krause Publications [and] good to see this kind of support . . . so early in our effort.”

With this \$50,000 donation, Krause Publications becomes the first donor to be named an “ANA Benefactor” in the headquarters renovation fund drive—“ANA Target 2001.” Those pledging \$25,000 or more will be recognized on a “donor wall” to be erected in the new entry plaza of the ANA building and be permitted to exhibit numismatic material in the Museum’s rotating displays.

Send tax-deductible contributions (check, money order or credit card) to “ANA Target 2001,” 818 North Cascade Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80903-3279; telephone toll-free 800/367-9723; fax 719/634-4085; or E-mail [anaacc@money.org](mailto:anaacc@money.org). Pledges also can be made on-line at [www.money.org](http://www.money.org).





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1806 S-270 AU-55



1816 N-1 MS-60



1819 N-3 MS-63



1821 N-2 AU-58



1823 N-2 XF-45



1834 N-7 PR-50



1839 N-15 XF-40

This multi-million dollar collection features a complete collection of Early Cents (1793-1814) by Sheldon variety, from S-1 Chain Ameri to 1814 S-295. Also offered in the collection is a virtually complete set of Middle Date Cents (1816-1839) by Newcomb varieties, missing only the 1822 N-14. Rarities and condition census

pieces abound, many pedigreed to some of the finest collectors and collections of the last half century, including Sheldon, Blaisdell, Naftzger, Brown, Robinson, Matthews, Morley, Kuntz, Vail, Dudgeon, Ruttenberg, and Rasmussen. Included in this collection is one of only 8 known examples of the 1834 N-7.

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# NEW ISSUES

## SWITZERLAND:

### 5 Francs Marks Zurich Sechseläuten Festivities

A Swiss commemorative 5-franc coin is dedicated to "Sechseläuten," the traditional spring festival celebrated by the guilds of Zurich each year on the third Monday in April. The festival's name refers to the six strikes of the bells that once tolled at the Grossmünster to signal the end of the workday in summer, as laid down by the guilds. On Sechseläuten Sunday, a procession of young, costumed revellers, musical groups and floats weaves its way through the streets of the inner city. In a colorful guild parade the next day, thousands of marchers, hundreds of horses and a multitude of brightly decorated floats make their way to Sechseläuten Square, where "winter" is to be burned.

A three-meter-tall snowman, the "Böögg," is placed atop a 13-meter-high bonfire. At the stroke of 6 p.m., the fire is lit, and guildsmen on horseback gallop around it. The Böögg, outfitted with a generous amount of firecrackers, is consumed by the fire amid loud explosions—the quicker it burns, the better the expectations of a fine summer.

At the center of the bimetallic coin's obverse is a bust of the burning Böögg—an upturned basket on its head, a scarf around its neck, and a pipe in its mouth—with a broom. On the reverse, mounted guildsmen gallop around the outer ring.



Not Actual Size

A Swiss coin notes Zurich's guild festival "Sechseläuten," which culminates in the burning of a symbolic, three-meter-tall snowman (the "Böögg") to celebrate the end of winter.

The Zurich Sechseläuten commemorative is limited to mintage of 170,000 uncirculated and 20,000

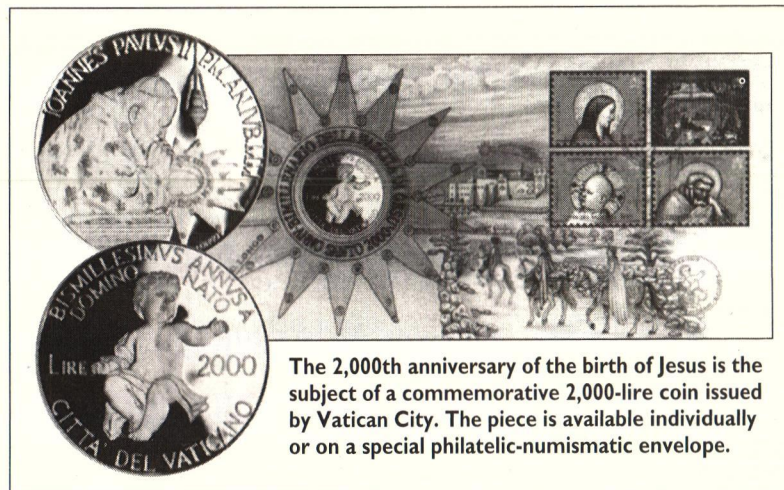
proof pieces. For more information, contact the official mint of the Swiss Confederation: Swissmint, Bernastr. 28, CH-3003 Bern, Switzerland.

## VATICAN CITY:

### Coin Reflects on 2,000th Anniversary of Birth of Jesus

Vatican City has issued a 2,000-lire coin to celebrate the 2,000th anniversary of the birth of Jesus. The .835 fine silver piece, designed by Daniela Longo, shows on the obverse Pope John Paul II praying on his knees before the altar in the "Nativity Cave" in Bethlehem, reminiscent of his pilgrimage to the Holy Land last year. The star denotes the site where Jesus was born. On the reverse is an image of the infant Jesus taken from a painting by Francesco Mancini (1679-1758).

The Christmas 2000 brilliant-uncirculated (BU) and proof coins are available to collectors from the Philatelic and Numismatic Office—Governatorato, 00120 Vatican City. Also available during the 2,000-year anniversary celebration is a special



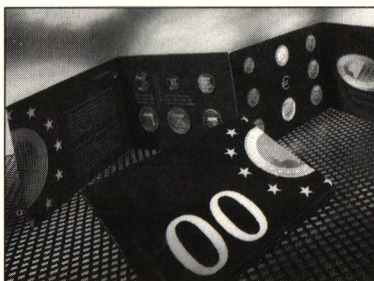
The 2,000th anniversary of the birth of Jesus is the subject of a commemorative 2,000-lire coin issued by Vatican City. The piece is available individually or on a special philatelic-numismatic envelope.



philatelic-numismatic envelope that combines a BU coin with the series of four commemorative postage stamps (800; 1,200; 1,500 and 2,000 lire). The envelope features a full-color scene representing the night Jesus was born, with the coin framed by the star showing the Magi the way to the manger.

## NETHERLANDS: Reservations Offered for 2000-Dated Euros

In anticipation of the release of euro coinage on January 1, 2002, European mints are busy striking and stockpiling the new currency. Although they will not be issued until next year, the first euros from the Netherlands will bear one of three, different dates—1999, 2000 or 2001.



Collectors who purchase a Netherlands guilder mint set for 2000 can reserve up to five euro sets.

The annual collector series for these years will consist of two sets of coins: one set with six coins on the guilder standard, available now (for 1999 and 2000), and a second set having eight 1999-, 2000- and 2001-dated euros, which will be available at the time of issue. For each guilder mint set purchased, collectors will

receive a reservation coupon guaranteeing purchase rights for up to five euro sets.

The 2000 guilder set, including all currently circulating Dutch coins from 5 cents to 5 guilders in a colorful wallet, costs \$19.50. The Netherlands proof set contains the same guilder coins, each housed in a plastic capsule and placed in a burgundy velour presentation booklet, priced at \$49.50. Please add \$4.50 per order for shipping and handling. New Jersey residents should add 6-percent sales tax. To place an order or for more information, contact The Coin & Currency Institute, P.O. Box 1057, Clifton, NJ 07014, telephone toll-free 800/421-1866, fax 973/471-1062, E-mail [mail@coin-currency.com](mailto:mail@coin-currency.com) or visit the firm's web site at [www.coin-currency.com](http://www.coin-currency.com). •



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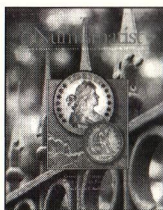
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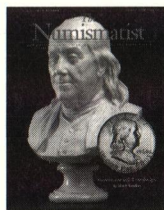
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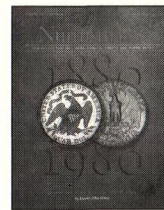
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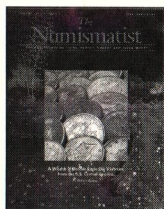
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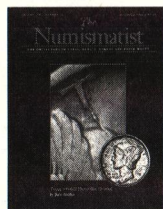
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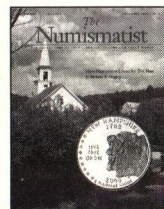
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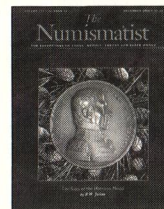
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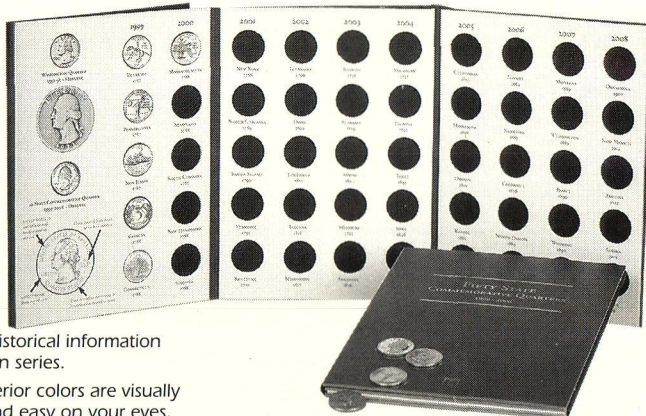


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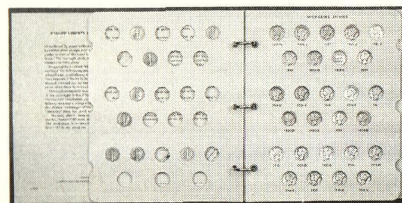
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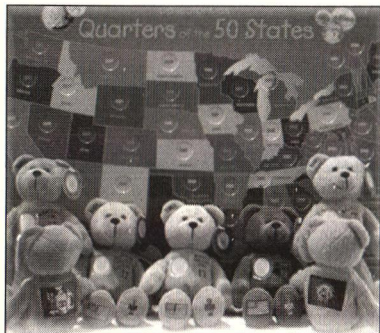
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## NUMISMATIC NARRATIVES

### Cuddly Bears Pocket State Quarters

Cute and cuddly Quarter Bears™ commemorating the United States Mint's 50 States Quarter™ Program are available from Timeless Toys, Inc.™ of Foster City, California. Each colorful bear is embroidered with the state's name, year of entry into the union, and the number of the release on its left chest. On its right chest is a clear, vinyl pocket to hold the matching State coin. An embroidered state flag is on the bear's back, and its right ear is embroidered with the coin's year of issue. The sole of its right foot is embroidered with the United States flag, its left foot with the Timeless Toys soldier trademark.



Quarter Bears are being released in sets of five per year to coincide with the Mint's release of 50 State quarters. Currently the 1999, 2000 and 2001 bears are available but going fast. Designed by Ron Jessen, these unique bears are the first collectibles to combine three popular collector categories: coins, bears and beanbags. The 8½-inch, plush crit-

ters are priced at \$8.50 each and can be viewed on their own web site at [www.quarterbears.com](http://www.quarterbears.com).

### U.S. Mint Must Buy Silver on Open Market

On November 27, 2000, the United States Defense National Stockpile Center (DNSC), an arm of the Defense Logistics Agency, announced it would deliver its remaining stockpile of silver to the United States Mint. The nearly 15 million ounces of metal will be used for Mint coinage programs, The Silver Institute (a Washington, D.C.-based, nonprofit industry association) reports.

Having consumed more than 120 million ounces of silver over the past 19 years, the Mint is one of the world's largest users of the precious metal. Once it depletes its silver reserve, it must purchase the metal on the open market, potentially boosting demand by 1 percent annually. According to market analysts, this increased demand would further widen the gap between overall silver supply and fabrication demand.

### Royal Mint Featured on U.K. "Millionaire" Show

A recent trip to England gave the British Royal Mint's public relations representative in North America, Michael Sedgwick, an opportunity to watch a Sunday evening edition of *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?*, inspiration for the American show of the same name. Rather than Regis, the host in England is television personality Chris Tarrant, but apart from that, the programs are virtually the same. Imagine Sedgwick's surprise when a numismatic question worth £300 (approximately \$450) came up: "What is made at the

Royal Mint?" Answer choices were: A. Dog, B. Money, C. Handbags or D. Chocolates.

The contestant did not falter, giving the correct answer and moving on to greater financial rewards. Says Sedgwick, "It was really a nice coincidence that the question should come up during the only edition of the U.K. program I'm likely to see in a while! If I thought all the questions would be that easy, I'd have a go myself!"

### Collection Management Database Offered Gratis

My Collection™, a secure, on-line system for determining coins' daily market value and historical auction price data, now is available free of charge. This management resource is provided by Heritage Rare Coin Galleries and Heritage Numismatic Auctions of Dallas, Texas.

"My Collection lets numismatists quickly set up a password-protected, private record of what they own, buy or sell, and track the current market value. . . . The prices are based on actual trading ranges from [our] massive database," says Paul Minshull, Heritage's chief operating officer. Also included are Numismatic Guaranty Corporation and Professional Grading Service populations for each coin.

Collectors can print out a customized spreadsheet detailing their collection's content and value. Multiple "collections" can be created and even sorted into separate categories. For additional information, contact Heritage Numismatic Auctions, 100 Highland Park Village, 2nd Floor, Dallas, TX 755205, or preview the program's organizational capabilities at the [www.heritagecoin.com/MyCollection](http://www.heritagecoin.com/MyCollection) web site.



## Use of Mint-Sewn Bags Abandoned

In March 2002, the Mint-sewn bag will become a relic of the past. The United States Mint is replacing the traditional containers for shipping coins to the Federal Reserve with more efficient, bulk bags. "These bulk bags will contain the same volume of coins as currently shipped on a pallet with several smaller bags," according to the Mint's *Fourth Quarter Fiscal Year 2000 Public Enterprise Report to Congress*.

The Mint's stated goal is "to ship 100 percent of all circulating coins from the Philadelphia and Denver Mints to the 110 [Federal Reserve Banks] and coin terminals by the end of March 2002 utilizing this much larger bag." The Mint plans to

## Fun and Games with Coin Trading Cards



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Hobbyists can collect 100 "Red, White and Blue" cards displaying each type of United States coin ever issued. A set of 15 "Rare Coin" cards was assembled with

the assistance of the ANA Money Museum. Randomly inserted "Gold" cards show beautiful, mint-state specimens, "Washington Quarter Cards" have been added to the mix for the State quarter enthusiast, and a "Free Collection Starter Box" card will bring a lucky collector some bonus items. Card packs retail for \$1.75 each. For details, visit [www.cointradingcards.com](http://www.cointradingcards.com) on-line or telephone toll-free 888/596-9960.

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transport all Lincoln cents in bulk bags by the end of March 2001.

Hobbyists will feel the effects of the changeover, *Coin World* predicts. Dealers likely will lose the revenue from selling Mint-sewn bags to customers, and collectors will lose an opportunity to search through bags of coins for die varieties and errors.

### Rogers Retires from Mint

January 12, 2001, is the official retirement date of United States Mint Sculptor-Engraver Thomas D. Rogers. He joined the engraving staff at the Philadelphia Mint on October 7, 1991.

Rogers is known for his work on commemorative coins and medals. His eagle design was selected for the reverse of the Sacagawea dollar, and

he engraved the reverses for the 2000 Massachusetts, Maryland and South Carolina quarters.

"His style incorporates a unique blending of modeling and hand carving," according to his U.S. Mint biography. "Through his designs and sculptures, he has worked indirectly for some of the largest concerns in the country." Rogers was awarded the ANA's Numismatic Award for Excellence in Medallion Sculpture at ceremonies on August 12, 2000, at the ANA 109th Anniversary Convention in Philadelphia.

### BEP Working on Improved Note Designs

Work already is under way for revised United States paper money designs scheduled for release from

2003 to 2005, Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) officials report. These designs will replace the five original motifs introduced in 1996. The first bill likely will be the \$100 Federal Reserve note, followed by the \$500, \$20, \$10 and \$5.

Information about specific security features has not yet been released. However, BEP officials have confirmed the purchase of additional equipment for adding anti-counterfeiting elements to the notes. Rapid design revisions in U.S. currency are a direct response to swift advances in reprographic technology. In 1994 Treasury officials assured Congress that American paper money designs would never again remain as static as they had for the previous 65 years, with more changes anticipated every seven years. •



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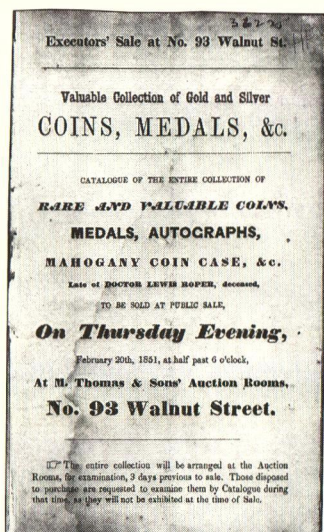
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# Dr. Lewis Roper: Argonaut of the Numismatic Realm

by Joel J. Orosz  
ANA 115913

Lewis Roper, known for the record-setting sale of his coin collection, was a pathfinder in other fields as well.



The February 1851 sale of Dr. Lewis Roper's collection by Moses Thomas & Sons changed the face of American numismatics.

THIS IS THE true story—a saga, really—of a remarkable numismatist, a man who seemed born to be a pioneer. A dentist by trade, Lewis Roper was one of the first doctors in the United States to use chloroform and ether as anesthetics. When news came of the great gold discovery at Sutter's Mill, he became one of the fabled "argonauts," the Americans of 1849 who risked life and limb to find their fortunes in California's fields of precious metal. In his hobbies, too, he blazed trails—only a decade after Louis Daguerre created the first popular form of photography, the good doctor was an accomplished daguerreotypist.

For all his pathfinding, however, it is only as a numismatist that he is (barely) remembered, as the posthumous consignor of the original "blockbuster" collection of coins in the United States. His numismatic collection was the first to merit its own auction catalog, the first to bring four figures at public competition, and the first to draw national attention to the infant hobby. Yet, Dr. Lewis Roper has been a mere cipher in our historical memory. It is time we pay him his due—as a dentist, anesthesiologist, argonaut, photographer and, most of all, numismatist.

## The Roper Sale

IF ONE WERE to choose a single date on which everything changed in American numismatics, it surely would be February 20, 1851. Before that, coins appeared at auction in the United States only infrequently, and always as a "tag on" to sales of books, jewelry or artwork. An examination of Emmanuel Joseph Attinelli's *Numisgraphics*, which lists every auction sale prior to 1876 that included even a single coin or medal,



THE ROPER SALE was . . . an *event*. Not only did home-town Philadelphia coin hounds . . . attend, but the leading numismatic lights of other cities made the trek . . .

.....

reveals but a handful of entries before 1851, and only one in which the prices realized were recorded. Auctions of coins—indeed, the whole coin hobby—were strictly small potatoes until 1851.

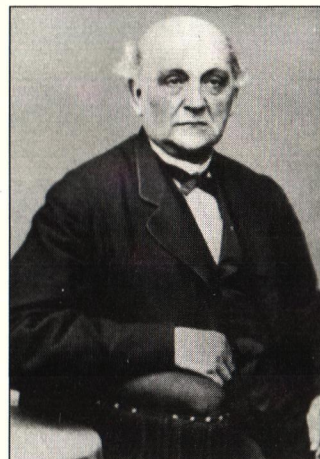
Then came the Dr. Lewis Roper sale. It was the first U.S. auction in which coins were the main event (it included some collectable autographs) and the first that attracted numismatists from faraway cities. The catalog had to be reprinted to meet the demand from interested bidders. When the dust settled, it also was the first U.S. coin auction to clear more than \$1,000, then considered a remarkably high sum. Although coin collectors had been active in America since at least the 1760s, after the Roper sale, coin collecting rapidly grew into a national hobby, with thousands of enthusiasts served by a number of professional dealers.

The Roper sale was not merely an auction, it was an *event*. Not only did home-town Philadelphia coin hounds like Joseph J. Mickley, Jacob Giles Morris and Richard Wistar Davids attend, but the leading numismatic lights of other cities made the trek as well: Charles Ira Bushnell of New York City, Jeremiah Colburn of Boston, and even Dr. Ammi Brown of Salem, Massachusetts. The presence of so many out-of-town-ers suggests the Roper sale was advertised in New York City and Boston newspapers; if that was the case, it was almost surely the first coin auction to get such widespread exposure. According to P. Scott Rubin in the Fall 1998 issue of *The Asylum* (journal of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society), attendance was so heavy that the Thomas firm was forced to reprint its catalog, creating two distinct varieties. Few of these catalogs survive; taken together, both issues are rarer than the 1804 silver dollar and are much in demand among numismatic bibliophiles.

And well they should be, for as Attinelli noted in *Numisgraphics*, it was “the first coin sale in this country, in which sufficient interest was manifested by numismatists to take note of the prices paid for coins, and who were the purchasers.” Among the participants thus taking note were Davids and Bushnell. Thanks to them, we have both prices realized and a list of successful bidders. (The Bushnell copy, by the way, brought \$9,000 at the December 1998 George Frederick Kolbe sale of the Harry Bass Library, Part 1, one of the highest prices ever attained by a U.S. coin catalog at public auction.)

### Dr. Roper, the Obscure

GIVEN THE ENORMOUS splash the Roper sale made at the time and the significant ripples it continues to generate, it is peculiar that Dr.



Among the leading numismatists to attend the Roper sale was fellow Philadelphian Joseph J. Mickley, who bought the lion's share of Roper's American coins.



“ . . . THE DEFICIENCY IS intended to be met by selling off some of the superfluous pieces to Roper, Morris and others.”

.....

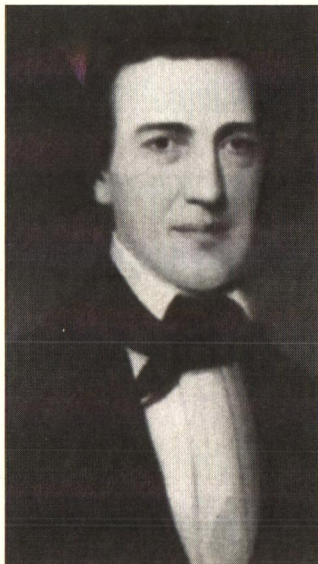
Lewis Roper himself has proved such an enigma to his successors in the coin hobby. In fact, scholars of numismatic history have been able to find only two references to him during his lifetime.

The first comes from an authoritative source: the sixth director of the United States Mint, Dr. Robert Maskell Patterson. In 1839 Patterson was concerned about the paltry Congressional appropriation for purchasing specimens for the Mint's coin cabinet, which was established only the year before. Casting about for another source of revenue, Patterson made the following notation in the records of the Mint cabinet for 1838-39: "But as the appropriation will not be more than \$800 (if that much), the deficiency is intended to be met by selling off some of the superfluous pieces to Roper, Morris, and others."

This brief note tells us a great deal about Roper's place in the Philadelphia numismatic universe of the late 1830s. First, he was in good company. Jacob Giles Morris, a philanthropist descended on his mother's side from scientist Casper Wistar (after whom the shrub wisteria was named), was the other numismatist mentioned. Second, Roper must have been collecting for at least a few years before 1839, as it would take some time to become known at the Mint. Third, and most important, Roper had connections who helped him build his collection. Mickley, Morris, Roper and a few others were given opportunities to buy duplicates from the Mint and possibly had coins restruck to order. (During the same decade, restriking services were provided to Baltimore numismatist Robert Gilmor Jr.) At that time, no one considered such practices to be nefarious, but the advantage was not accessible to all numismatists.

The second mention of Roper appeared in a list prepared by Mint assayer William DuBois, by all odds the best-connected employee in the history of the United States Mint. His grandfather (Robert Patterson) and two of his uncles (Samuel Moore and the aforementioned Robert Maskell Patterson) served as director of the United States Mint. He also married the daughter of the Mint's long-time chief coiner, Adam Eckfeldt. His brother-in-law (Jacob Eckfeldt) was chief assayer. If anyone knew where the bodies were buried at the Mint and around the antebellum numismatic scene, it was William DuBois.

In 1843 DuBois prepared a list of "Amateurs of Coins" ("amateur" is used here in its sense of "lover" or "devotee," not in its sense of "unprofessional"), comprising 10 names, including Morris and Davids. Oddly, many big names were missing (Mickley, Gilmor and Matthew Stickney), but it seems significant that Roper occupied first place. Clearly, he was



**Lacking sufficient funds to purchase specimens for the Mint Cabinet, Mint Director Robert Maskell Patterson cast about for another source of revenue.**



“... THERE WERE FOUR of us, in Philadelphia, engaged in forming cabinets of coins. . . . one was buried in the Pacific Ocean, on his way home from California . . .”

.....

one of the Mint’s “pet collectors.”

Until recently, then, the sum of our knowledge about Roper was that he began collecting coins before 1839, had connections at the Mint, was an active collector as late as 1843, and died before February 20, 1851. Although we know what coins were in his collection (based on the sale catalog), we are little informed about the man whose influence on the course of American numismatic history was profound.

### William DuBois Drops a Hint

WILLIAM DUBOIS’ CAREER at the United States Mint was long and eventful. By the time of the Gilded Age, he was advanced in years and given to writing reminiscences, chiefly in the *American Journal of Numismatics*. In the July 1872 issue, he penned one such piece that included a cryptic hint about the death of a prominent early numismatist:

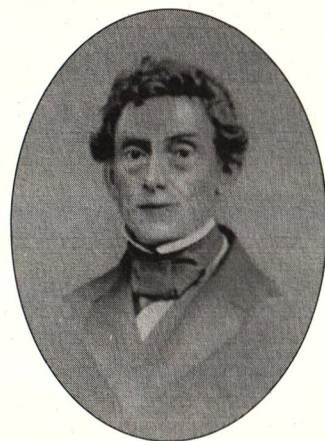
Some thirty years ago, there were four of us, in Philadelphia, engaged in forming cabinets of coins; three on private account, one for the public. We often conferred together and helped each other. As time rolled on, one was buried in the Pacific Ocean, on his way home from California, another went down in the Arctic, returning from Liverpool; the other two came and went safely, and Mr. Mickley is one of them.

Three of the four amigos are easily identified. DuBois was collecting “for the public,” that is, for the Mint Cabinet. Morris went down with the steamer *Arctic* in the North Atlantic in 1854. Mickley is specifically mentioned. Who was the fourth member, who died on his way home from California?

Roper immediately comes to mind. He fits the time frame. He was alive when DuBois made his list of “amateurs of coins” in 1843, but died before February 20, 1851, when his coin collection was auctioned. This certainly is consistent with the notion of a forty-niner returning home from the gold fields.

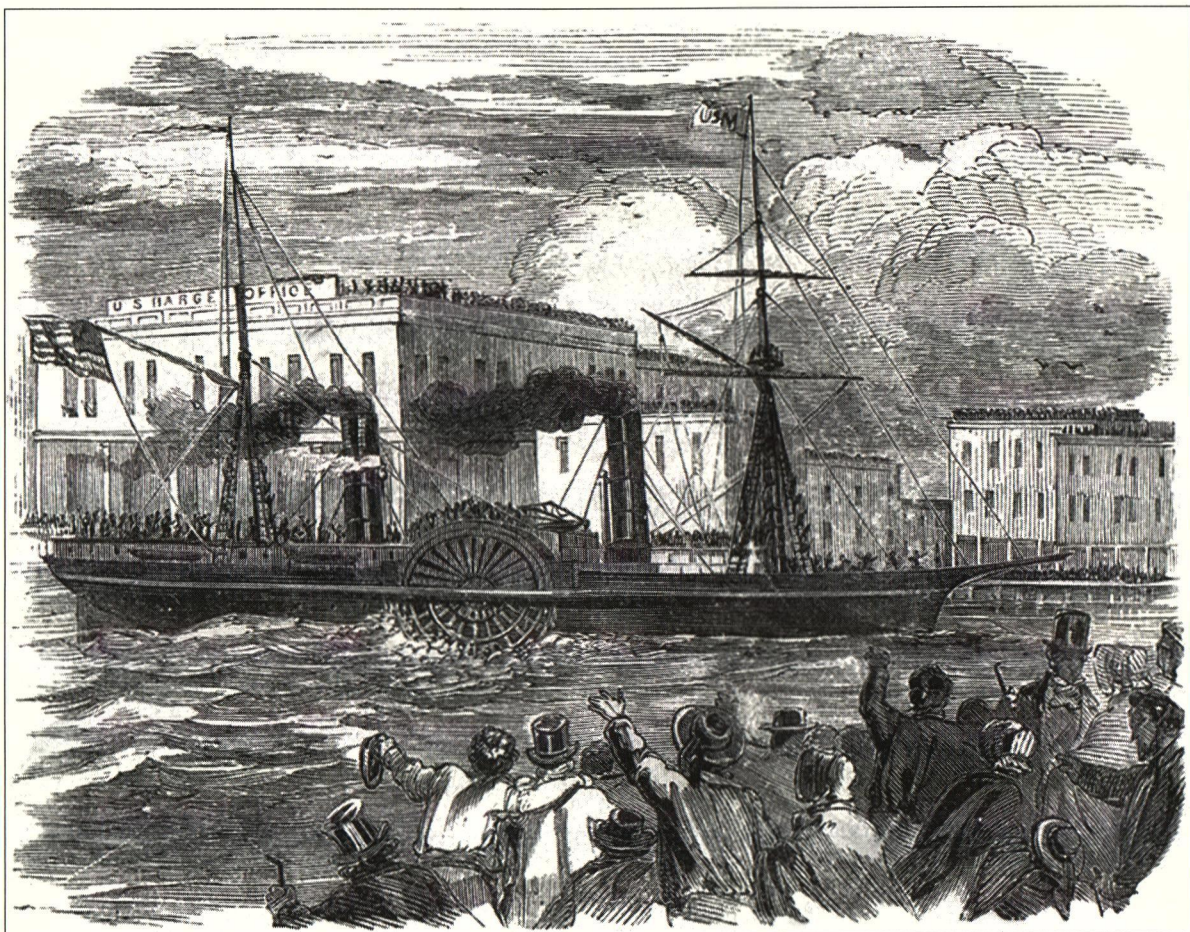
An easy way to settle this question would be to find Roper’s obituary in a Philadelphia newspaper, but this is no simple matter. A number of newspapers operated in Philadelphia in 1850, but not all copies of these have survived. And, in those times, obituaries were not as substantial, nor as routinely published as today. Without a firm date of death, finding an obituary (if one was printed) entails a laborious search.

At least it can be demonstrated that Roper lived in Philadelphia. The *University of Pennsylvania Alumni Catalogue* (1922) reveals that he earned



In 1843 knowledgeable Mint assayer William DuBois put Roper at the head of his list of “Amateurs of Coins.”





**Steamers arrived in California with thousands of fabled "argonauts" willing to risk life and limb in search of fortune in the fields of gold.**

his M.D. from that institution in 1830, with his thesis written on the physiology and pathology of the teeth. He appears in *DeSilver's Philadelphia Directory & Stranger's Guide* for 1833, listed as a dentist with an office at 133 Walnut. In *A. McElroy's Philadelphia Directory* for 1839, the office shifts to 318 Chestnut, and the following year to 275 Chestnut. *McElroy's* records another move in 1845, to 381 Mulberry, where Roper's office is listed through 1850. Professionally, then, he was a Philadelphia dentist for at least 17 years.

On a personal level, Roper's life was tinged with familial tragedy. The *Philadelphia Public Ledger* for December 5, 1848, contains the following brief notice under the heading "Died":

on the 1<sup>st</sup> inst. JOSEPHINE, in her fifth year; and on the 2<sup>nd</sup> inst. ROBENA ANN, aged 6 years; daughters of Dr. Lewis Roper. The friends of the family are particularly invited to attend their funeral, from the residence of their father, No. 381 Arch Street, 1<sup>st</sup> door above Tenth, this afternoon at two o'clock, without further notice.



THE DATES OF these deaths are suggestive; coming as they did at the end of 1848, they may have prompted the bereaved father to seek a change of scenery . . .

.....

Deaths of children were depressingly common before the advent of antibiotics and widespread childhood vaccination, but losing two young daughters in two days would be a crushing blow for anyone, anytime. The fact that they both died within such a short time suggests an epidemic; if so, the cause probably was yellow fever, a dreaded plague to which Philadelphians were very susceptible during the 18th and 19th centuries.

The dates of these deaths are suggestive; coming as they did at the end of 1848, they may have prompted the bereaved father to seek a change of scenery, such as leaving the City of Brotherly Love for the newly discovered California gold fields.

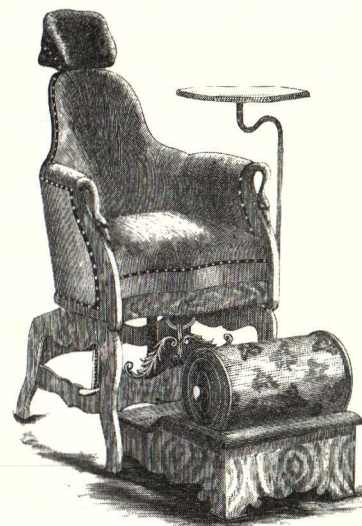
The first news of that treasure was printed in the *Baltimore Sun* on September 20, 1848, and by early December, Philadelphia papers were full of breathless dispatches from the latter-day El Dorado. Indeed, a week to the day after the death of Josephine Roper, the Philadelphia Mint took possession of its first shipment of California gold: 1,804.59 troy ounces that promptly were coined into 1848-dated quarter eagles and countermarked "CAL." to indicate their historic provenance.

### Dr. Roper, the Argonaut

THE INTREPID SOULS who crossed or circumnavigated the continent to California in 1849 are remembered to history as "argonauts." In 1890 C.W. Haskins authored *The Argonauts of California*, which listed the vessels and passengers who embarked from East Coast ports for California in 1849. The name Dr. Lewis Roper is not among those who departed Philadelphia by sea, nor is he known to be one of those who made the arduous overland trek.

On the other side of the continent, he likewise is elusive in official records, for his name does not appear in the 1850 San Francisco City Directory. But these records are hardly infallible; not all argonauts made Haskins' list. And if Roper did die in 1850, it might explain his absence from the 1850 San Francisco City Directory.

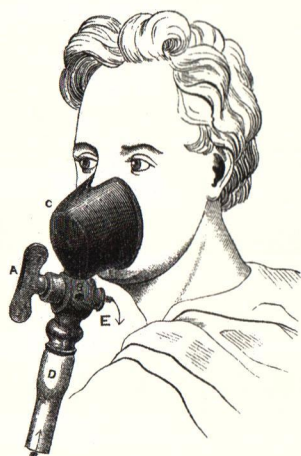
It was possible, too, that Roper never made it to California. An ap-  
pallingly high number of adventurers met the watery fate described by DuBois. In the largely unregulated business climate of the time, owners of steamships tended to "waste" as little money as possible on maintenance. Steamships were notorious for being rotten tubs with hair-trigger boilers prone to explode. Songwriter John A. Stone captured the essence of a voyage by steamer in his ditty, "A Ripping Trip:"



Among Dr. Roper's household effects that went on the auction block was an "operating chair." It likely was similar in style to this model from the 1860s.

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Roper was one of the first doctors in the country to use ether as an anesthetic. In 1848 he was issued a patent for improvements in the apparatus for administering the anesthetic (stored in a glass bottle and originally used with a mask similar to that shown below).

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You go aboard a leaky boat  
And sail for San Francisco.  
You've got to pump to keep her afloat  
You have *that* by jingo.

The engine soon begins to squeak,  
But nary a thing to oil her.  
Impossible to stop the leak:  
*Rip* goes the boiler!

### Roper's Legacy

AS IT TURNS out, DuBois was right about Roper having struck out for the gold fields. Credit for proving that DuBois' fourth amigo was Roper belongs to California researcher Dan Owens, author of *California Coiners and Assayers*. Owens discovered in the *San Francisco Historic Record and Genealogy Bulletin* (Vol. III, No. 17, July 1965) a listing of deaths reported in San Francisco newspapers in 1850. The last of three listed for August 21, 1850, is "ROPER, Dr. L. in San Francisco, of Philadelphia, Pa., aged about 44 years, married." Unfortunately, it specifies neither cause of death nor place of burial.

News of Roper's demise traveled swiftly for the times, for in Philadelphia on October 1, 1850, his widow filed the following request:

To the Register of Wills for the City and County of Philada.:

I hereby request that letters of administration of the estate of my late husband Dr. Lewis Roper may be granted to George S. Pepper Esq. Of the city of Philada.

Philad. Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> 1850

Robina F. Roper



(It appears that the name of Dr. Roper's elder daughter was misspelled as "Robena" in the *Public Ledger* notice of December 5, 1848.)

Other papers filed with the widow's statement note that Roper died intestate, meaning that George S. Pepper would liquidate the estate and keep careful administrative records as he did so. Once again, credit goes to Dan Owens for finding the citation to Roper's administrative papers, "Year 1850, File 383, Adm. Book Q, pg. 49."

Representing the estate to the Orphan's Court of the City and County of Philadelphia, Pepper posted a \$10,000 bond

*continued on page 73*





## ANCIENT ART FOR SALE SYRACUSE DECADRACHM BY KIMON



This huge silver coin was struck in the Greek colony of Syracuse on the island of Sicily about 400 B.C. This decadrachm weighs 43.51 grams of near fine silver and is struck by unsigned dies engraved by the famous artist Kimon. The obverse depicts a charioteer driving a quadriga at full gallop. Nike is flying above, crowning the driver with a victory wreath. Below the exergual line are a military harness, shield, greaves, cuirass and helmet, all connected by a horizontal spear. The Greek letters for ATHLA below these objects name them as the prize for the victor of the contest.

The reverse depicts the head of Arethusa in superb classical style. The artistic beauty of this coin has made this design one of the most famous of all time. The nymph Arethusa is wearing a pendant earring and beaded necklace, with her hair up in an open weave sakkos. Four dolphins swim around her and the city name of Syracuse, behind her head, is mostly off the flan.

This coin is pedigreed back to a Hirsch Auction XXXIV, May 5, 1914 and is the coin, plate 36-37, in *Uomo e Cavallo Sulla Moneta Greca*, by Giacosa, and the coin, pl. xxiv, 1 in *Greek Coins*, by Charles Seltman. EF, with smooth perfect surfaces, \$37,000.



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# Silver and Nickel 3-Cent Pieces: An Overview

by David F. Fanning  
ANA 188033

Denigrated for their size and design, 3-cent pieces are only slightly more popular with today's collectors than they were with the general public in the 19th century.



Actual Size: 14.3mm

Thin, small and plain, the silver 3-cent piece claims a small but loyal following of collectors. Pictured is a Type I specimen, struck from 1851 to 1853.

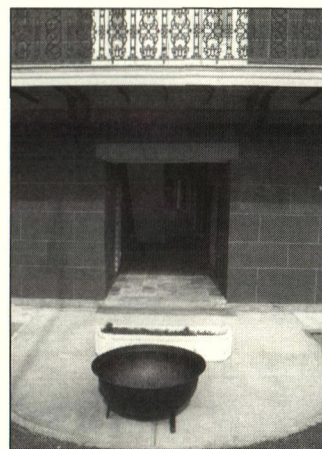
THE 3-CENT PIECE represents one of those arcane, numismatic areas where few collectors dare to tread. While some aspects of 19th-century American coinage have been examined from seemingly every angle imaginable, this short-lived series rarely is the subject of extensive investigation or commentary. Yet, the 3 cents shares a number of characteristics with other, more popularly collected series: specimens generally are affordable for the average collector; the series includes rare dates to tantalize the serious numismatist; and the coin is historically interesting, arousing the curiosity of the hobbyist and non-hobbyist alike.

The coin surely qualifies as one of the United States Mint's least-appreciated products. Examples were struck in silver from 1851 to 1873, and in nickel from 1865 to 1889. The denomination was created by an Act of Congress on March 3, 1851 (effective June 30), with the expressed hope it would facilitate postal transactions (the postage rate being 3 cents at the time). The coin's issuance also was intended to take some of the strain off the large, copper cent, which was the primary coin of the realm, but unpopular with the public because of its cumbersome size (and unpopular with the Mint because it was costly to produce).

## The Silver Issues

THE UNITED STATES Mint struck three distinct types of silver 3-cent pieces, or "trimes." The first variety, issued from 1851 to 1853, measures 14.3mm, weighs .802 grams, and is composed of 75-percent silver/25-percent copper, an alloy not used before or since for regular-issue





**The New Orleans Mint** (pictured) struck 720,000 silver 3-cent pieces in 1851, after which specimens were produced exclusively at the Philadelphia Mint.

U.S. coins. Designed by James B. Longacre (1794-1869), the silver 3 cents features on its obverse a six-pointed star with a heraldic shield at its center; on its reverse, the Roman numeral "III" is surrounded by a large and fairly ornate "C" (for "cents"). Along with the 20-cent piece, it is the only American silver coin with a plain edge.

In the early 1850s, there was a shortage of circulating silver coinage. The intrinsic value of many coins exceeded their face value, resulting in rampant hoarding. Since the silver in the 3-cent piece equaled approximately 86 percent of its stated denomination, authorities hoped it would circulate . . . and it did. For a time, the 3-cent piece was the most important coin in circulation. With an initial mintage of more than 5.4 million pieces from Philadelphia and 720,000 from New Orleans (the only branch-mint issue of the series), the coin reached its highest production the next year, with over 18.6 million struck. In fact, more than 100 obverse dies were needed to meet Philadelphia Mint production in 1852.

Despite this, numismatic author Walter Breen referred to the trime as "a failure on all counts," pointing out that it clashed with the decimal system (upon which our monetary system is based) and that its size and tendency to discolor made it both inconvenient and unsightly for commerce. In 1853 a total of 11.4 million 3-cent pieces was struck, a figure unmatched in ensuing years.

Responding to the silver crisis, Congress enacted legislation on February 21, 1853, lowering the weight of silver coinage, and on March 3 passed the Deficiency Act. The latter mandated that all silver coins minted after April 1 had to contain .900 silver, with a weight proportional



Actual Size: 14.3mm

**Type 3 silver 3-cent pieces**, struck from 1859 to 1873, have the same weight and silver content as Type 2 pieces, but the star has only two outlines, and the letters and numbers are narrower and spaced farther apart.





Actual Size: 17.9mm

**The nickel 3 cents helped alleviate the coin shortage experienced by soldiers and civilians alike during the Civil War.**

to other silver issues. This meant that the metal content and weight of the 3 cents required adjustment. The changeover was not accomplished until 1854, as the production of 1853-dated coins already had begun (and was completed by March 31).

The revised issues of 1854 (struck until 1858) constitute the second variety of 3-cent coins. The evidence of the change was plain to see: The star had three borders instead of one, and the reverse had an olive branch above and arrows below the "III." The new coin weighed 0.746 grams, making it by far the lightest U.S. coin ever issued. (The gold dollar, though smaller in diameter than the silver 3 cents, weighed more than twice as much.) The quantity produced was much lower than in previous years: none of the Type 2 issues broke the 2 million mark, and the 1855 was released to the tune of only some 139,000 pieces.

Most Type 2 issues are weakly struck, making it quite a challenge to find a fully struck, uncirculated example. Since mintages for 1854-58 are nowhere near those for 1851-53, well-preserved specimens are in

*continued on page 97*



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(The turnaround time for the coins you submit begins the day NGC receives them)

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| Dispatch           | 24 Hours                                                                                                             | All U.S./World coins.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
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| GRADING SERVICES   | ESTIMATED TURNAROUND                                                                                                 | REQUIREMENTS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
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# The Bard and the Barnyard

by Mitch Sanders  
ANA 120751

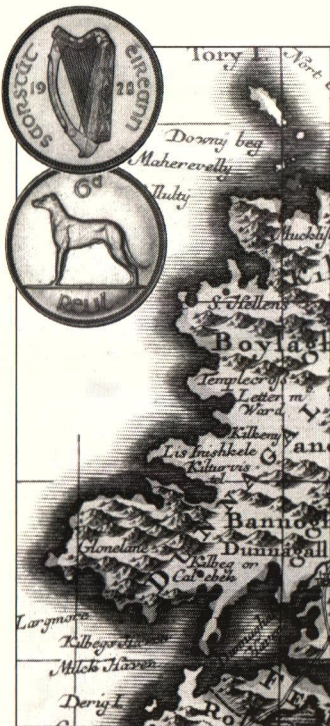
In 1928 the newly formed Republic of Ireland launched a national coinage based on animal themes with the assistance of poet and patriot William Butler Yeats.

IN A SPEECH to the Irish Free State Senate on March 3, 1926, William Butler Yeats said, "The official designs of the Government, especially its designs in connection with postage stamps and coinage, may best be described, I think, as the silent ambassadors of national taste." The sentiment he expressed is familiar to many numismatists, who appreciate coins both as works of art and as symbols of the nations that issued them. The context was highly unusual, however, as this remark was made by a world-famous poet in the legislature of a newly formed nation. Why was a poet serving as a legislator, and why was he concerned with the new nation's coinage? The story—a particularly fascinating combination of history, politics and art—provides insight into the vision and effort that went into the creation of a beautiful series of coins.

## Breaking the Chains of Tradition

MODERN IRISH HISTORY is dominated by the relationship between Ireland and its neighbor, Great Britain. From the 16th century, Britain's growing world prominence was accompanied by a stronger presence in Ireland. A mostly Catholic country, Ireland grew increasingly restive under the rule of Protestant Britain. Various proposals for self-government were put forward in the 19th and early 20th centuries. But Ireland did not achieve "home rule" until 1914, and even then its implementation was suspended with the outbreak of World War I. Britain's harsh response to the Easter uprising in 1916—a failed attempt by rebels to declare independence—galvanized Irish support in favor of separation.

In 1919 an Irish Parliament was formed and declared the nation's independence from Britain. The next two years saw armed conflict between the two countries. Finally, in 1921, a treaty was signed, creating



The Republic of Ireland looked to its Gaelic heritage for coinage designs.



MOST IMPORTANTLY, IN a unique confluence of politics and art, the chair of the [coinage] committee was . . . Nobel Prize-winning poet William Butler Yeats.

.....

the Irish Free State.

The treaty contained two highly controversial elements. First, Ireland was partitioned, with Northern Ireland remaining under British rule. Second, Irish Free State government officials were required to swear an oath of allegiance to the British monarch. These points of contention led to civil war in Ireland, with pro-Treaty forces prevailing in 1923. The issue of the oath of allegiance became moot in 1937 when the new constitution removed all British influence from Ireland's internal affairs. In 1949 Ireland withdrew completely from the British commonwealth. However, the partition of Ireland remained in effect, with Northern Ireland's Protestant majority, but significant Catholic minority, still a part of Great Britain.

Just a few years after achieving self-government, the Irish Free State turned its attention to its monetary system. Given the close economic ties between the two countries, it made sense that Ireland retain the British pound as its monetary unit. Irish coins, authorized by the Coinage Act of April 1926, basically were equivalent in form and substance to their British counterparts. However, the new nation wanted its coin designs to be distinctively Irish, and to this end the minister of finance created a committee to recommend designs for the new coinage. The committee's members included, among others, the president of the Royal Hibernian Academy and the director of the National Gallery. Most importantly, in a unique confluence of politics and art, the chair of the committee was one of the most renowned Irish citizens of the 20th (or any other) century—Nobel Prize-winning poet William Butler Yeats.

### The Poet as Patriot

YEATS WAS BORN in 1865 in Dublin and began publishing his poetry in the late 1880s. Beginning in the 1890s, he came to believe that poetry and drama, both historical and contemporary, were



Poet and playwright William Butler Yeats was one of the most famous citizens of the new republic. After the formation of the Irish Free State, he was appointed to its Senate in 1922.



A BIOGRAPHER OF Yeats, writing of his position as chair of the coinage committee, noted that “not many honours can have given Yeats greater pleasure.”

.....

important components of the unity of the Irish nation. Consequently, he became involved in the founding of the Irish Literary Theatre in the late 1890s (later renamed the Abbey Theatre). After the 1916 Easter uprising, Yeats supported the quest for Irish self-government, and following the formation of the Irish Free State, he was appointed to its Senate in 1922.

The Irish Senate primarily had an advisory role, and the Irish constitution specified that members were to serve “on the grounds that they have done honour to the Nation by reason of useful public service or that, because of special qualifications or attainments, they represent important aspects of the Nation’s life.” Yeats’ literary prominence certainly qualified him for such a position. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1923.

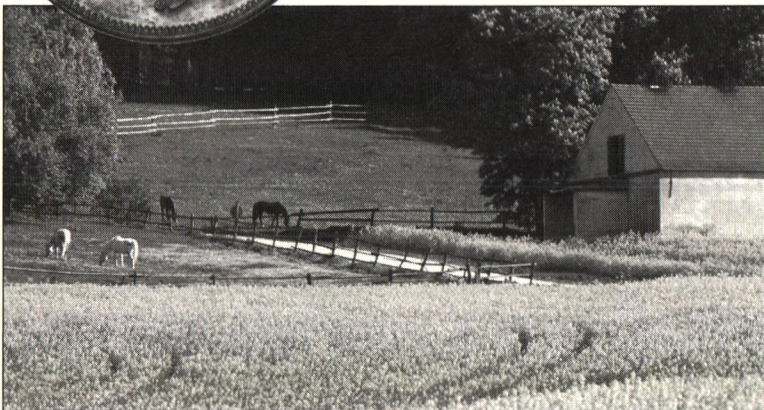
Shortly after his appointment to the Senate, Yeats expressed an intention to restrict his role to “aesthetic considerations,” and he gave speeches on issues such as the stained-glass industry, preservation of archaeological sites and historic monuments, and copyright protection. Yet, during his six years of service, he became active in several important debates on public policy. He argued against expanding police powers, government censorship, and compulsory teaching of the Gaelic language, and came out in favor of accepting divorce. While Yeats played an important role as advisor to the state, his position did not prevail on any of these key issues. (After serving one term, he left the Senate in 1928 and continued writing until his death in 1939.)

Instead, the area of his greatest influence—arguably the most enduring legacy of his time in public office, as well as the project of most interest to numismatists—was his role in the development of Irish Free State coinage. A biographer of Yeats, writing of his position as chair of the coinage committee, noted that “not many honours can have given Yeats greater pleasure.”

Yeats’ coinage committee pursued its assigned task with diligence and enthusiasm. Over the course of 22 meetings in nearly 24 months, the committee developed

Not Actual Size

**A harp, symbol of Ireland since the Middle Ages, was chosen for the obverse of all coins in the series.**





WHEN IT CAME time . . . to choose designs for the reverses, the unique opportunity to introduce an entire series of coins at once suggested a unified theme.

.....

and articulated its ideas about coin motifs and the design process, administered a competition, and chose and refined the selections. At the committee's first meeting, members heard general recommendations from the minister of finance, which they implemented. The coins were not to portray images of modern persons. A harp, symbol of Ireland since the Middle Ages, was chosen for the obverse of all coins, as it represented "the real treasure of the Emerald Isle, the irrepressible song in the hearts of Irishmen," according to the book *Symbols of the Nations*. "Its depiction says to the people that the music of Ireland's speech, poetry, and drama will not be stilled despite adversity and internal and external strife."

Also, coin inscriptions and denominations had to be in Gaelic, with the country's name presented as *Saorstát Éireann* (Irish Free State). Denominations also would appear in Gaelic. Although the Gaelic language was an important part of the country's sense of nationalism, nearly all Irish citizens in the 20th century spoke English, while only about 25 percent spoke Gaelic. Therefore, the committee recommended that each coin design also include numerals indicating the coin's value.

When it came time for the committee to choose designs for the reverses, the unique opportunity to introduce an entire series of coins at once suggested a unified theme. As Yeats put it:

As Ireland is the first modern state to design an entire coinage, not one coin now and another years later, as old dies wear out or the public changes its taste, it seemed best to give the coins some relation to one another.

The committee chose a theme of animals important to the culture and agriculture of Ireland. As Yeats stated:

If we decided upon birds and beasts, the artist, the experience of centuries has shown, might achieve a masterpiece, and might, or so it seemed to us, please those that would look longer at each coin than anybody else, artists and children. Besides, what better symbols could we find for this horse-riding, salmon-fishing, cattle-raising country?

Another member of the coinage committee, Thomas Bodkin, echoed Yeats' sentiments:

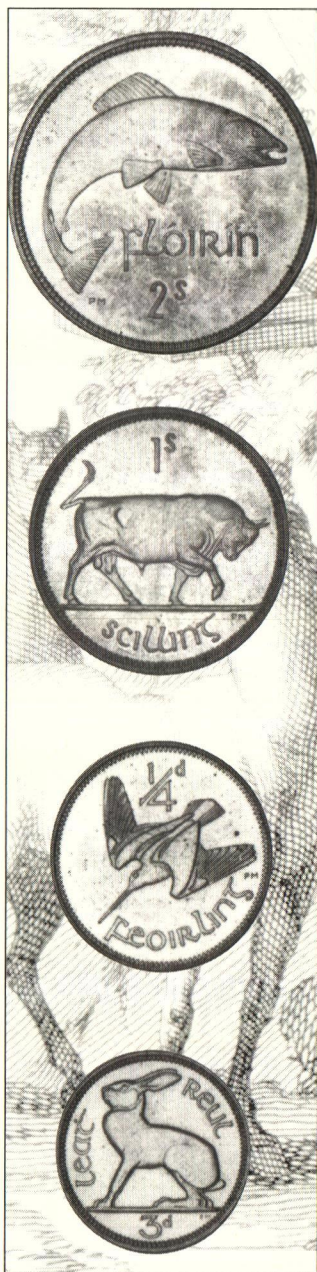
Coins are the tangible tokens of a people's wealth. Wealth in the earliest times was always calculated in terms of cattle. Thence comes the word pecunia, money, derived from pecus, the beast. The wealth of Ireland is still derived in overwhelming proportion from the products of her soil. What,



Not Actual Size

**Selected animal motifs included a horse for the half crown (top), pig for the half-penny, wolfhound for the sixpence and hen with chicks for the penny.**





Not Actual Size

The committee chose a salmon for the silver florin, a bull for the silver shilling, a woodcock for the bronze farthing and a hare for the nickel threepence.

... THE COMMITTEE SENT participants in the design competition photographs of harps, animals and ancient coins portraying animals.

therefore, could be more appropriate than the depiction upon our coinage of those products?

Thus, the "barnyard" series of coins was born.

### Cultivating the "Barnyard" Theme

THE DESIGNS SELECTED for the new series were explained by Leo McCauley, secretary of the coinage committee. (Note that 12 pence equal 1 shilling and 20 shillings equal 1 pound.) The committee's primary objective in selecting designs was to "assign the more noble or dignified types to the higher denominations, and the more humble types to the lower."

The silver half crown (2 shillings and sixpence) featured a horse, due to "the fame of the Irish horse." The silver florin (2 shillings) displayed a salmon, because of "its value as a natural product" and "its place in Irish legend . . . as the salmon of wisdom."

The silver shilling's bull represented "the excellence of Irish cattle" and "their importance in the trade of the country," while the nickel sixpence featured a wolfhound, a "species of dog . . . so peculiarly identified with Ireland." The nickel threepence showed a hare, because of "its association with sport."

The bronze penny's hen with chicks "represent[ed] a staple industry," and the bronze halfpenny's pig reflected the status of "a valuable product of the country." Finally, the woodcock on the bronze farthing "[made] a special appeal to sportsmen."

### The Production Process

ONCE THE SUBJECTS were chosen, designs were solicited from seven notable sculptors (three Irish). Only two—Percy Metcalfe of Yorkshire, England, and Publio Morbiducci of Rome, Italy—were medallic sculptors, and, by the time of the Irish coinage competition, both had already designed coins. (Interestingly, the committee had invited a submission from James Earle Fraser, designer of the American Buffalo nickel, who was chosen for his obvious facility with animal themes. However, Fraser declined to participate.) To assist with the creative process, the committee sent participants in the design competition photographs of harps, animals and ancient coins portraying animals.

The competitors submitted plaster models of their designs for consideration. (In addition, Morbiducci struck several sets of patterns from his designs, and these pieces have become important Irish rarities.) The



committee first viewed the reverse designs (with the artists' identities undisclosed), denomination by denomination. Next, it examined the obverse interpretations. Although the committee had determined it could approve a combination of obverse/reverse designs from different artists, it turned out that members unanimously chose the work of a single artist, Metcalfe, for every denomination and obverse. As Yeats put it:

One set of designs seemed far to exceed the others as decorations filling each its circular space, and this set, the work of Percy Metcalfe, had so marked a style, and was so excellent throughout, that it seemed undesirable to mix its designs with those of any other artist.

Ironically, Metcalfe almost did not make it into the competition. He was an alternate, chosen when another artist could not participate.

After the competition was completed, the designs were reviewed by experts. The horse, bull and pig designs were examined by the chief inspector of livestock, and the wolfhound design was surveyed by the president of the Wolf-Hound Club. Metcalfe was asked to modify his designs to ensure they were accurate representations of the animals portrayed. These modifications required several meetings and engendered some controversy, so much so that at one point Yeats and three other committee members threatened to resign. In the end, substantial modifications were made to the bull and the pig, and moderate changes were made to the horse and the wolfhound. Yeats lamented the required changes, calling the redesigned animals "better merchandise but less living." However, he concluded that overall "the coins have suffered less than we feared."

The pieces were struck by the Royal Mint in London and released on December 12, 1928. Justifiably proud of its work, the Irish government subsequently released a book, *Coinage of Saorstát Éireann*, describing the motifs and the design process. While there was some criticism of the coins because they were designed by an Englishman—and because of the absence of religious themes in this very Catholic country—response to the new series generally was quite positive. The typical reaction was reflected in the following glowing critique from *The Manchester [England] Guardian*:

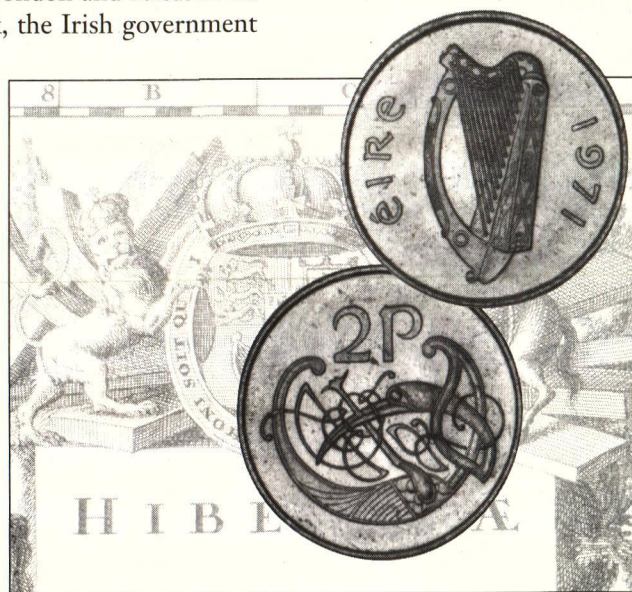
The Irish coinage will be acknowledged as the most beautiful in the modern world . . . I doubt if any country but Ireland would have had the imagination and freedom to lay down the conditions that would have made such designs possible.

*continued on page 111*



Not Actual Size

The heptagonal 50 pence (above) revived the woodcock design from the pre-decimal farthing, and the twopence (below) featured an ornamental bird from a medieval manuscript.

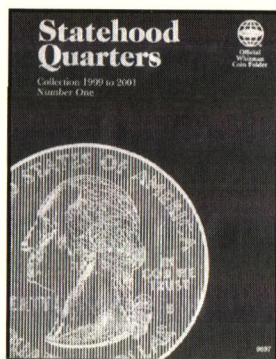




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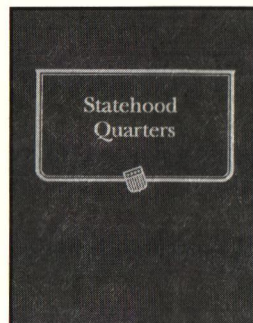
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# Saga of the California Gold Rush

**M**ANY COLORFUL AND unusual characters are documented in the historical annals of the California gold rush. One intriguing "forty-niner" was the eccentric Caleb Lyon.

## Designer of California's Great Seal

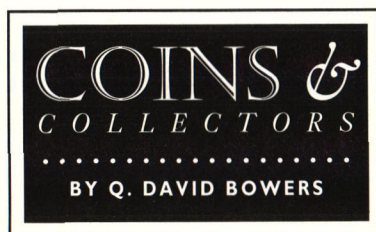
Born in 1821 in New York, Lyon was cultured and well-educated, having graduated from Norwich University in Vermont. He saw brief service in the Mexican War and in 1847 was confirmed as United States consul to Shanghai. On route to his consular position in 1848, Lyon stopped in San Francisco. Apparently the gold rush was just too tempting to resist—he took up residence and soon became involved in California politics.

Early historian Franklin Tuthill wrote of Lyon's activities at the constitutional convention held in Monterey in September 1849:

Only one design for a great seal of state and coat of arms was offered . . . It was presented by Caleb Lyon of Lyonsdale, as with harmless affectation the eccentric first assistant secretary loved to designate himself. After it was accepted, some members claimed the original design of it for Major [Robert Selden] Garnett, who, however, had expressed to Mr. Lyon a desire that he alone should be known as its author. Mr. Lyon was authorized to have it engraved, and to furnish a press and necessary appendages, and the convention paid him one thousand dollars for it.

An artistic accomplishment, the Great Seal of California is one of the most elegant ever produced for any state in the Union. Tuthill continued:

Around the bend of the ring are represented thirty-one stars, being one number of the States of which the



Union will consist upon at the admission of California. The foreground figure represents the goddess Minerva, having sprung full grown from the brain of Jupiter. She is introduced as a type of the political birth of the State of California, without having gone through the probation of a Territory. At her feet crouches a grizzly bear, feeding upon the clusters from a grape-vine, emblematic of the peculiar characteristics of the country. A miner is engaged, with his rocker and bowl at his side, illustrating the golden wealth of the Sacramento, upon whose waters are seen shipping, typical of commercial greatness; and

the snow-clad peaks of the Sierra Nevada make up the background, while above is the Greek motto, "Eureka" (I have found [it!]), applying either to the principle involved in the admission of the State, [or] the success of the miner at work.

## Numismatic Interests

Lyon likely had input into the design of California's seal. He certainly evidenced knowledgeable familiarity with medalllic designs and already may have been a full-fledged numismatist by 1849. Historical documentation shows he was involved in the hobby by 1860, when he published a poem about the 1796 Castorland medal in Franklin B. Hough's *History of Lewis County* and subsequently in the *American Journal of Numismatics* and *Mason's Coin and Stamp Collectors' Magazine*. In 1870 records show he purchased the silver Castorland medal from the William Fewsmith Collection sale conducted by Ebenezer Locke Mason Jr. In 1871 he attended W.H. Strobridge's sale of the Charles Clay Collection in New York City.



The discovery of gold in January 1848 at Sutter's Mill in California set in motion a great westward migration of fortune-seekers, scoundrels and colorful characters.



## Lyon's Later Life

By 1850 the intellectual and articulate Lyon had left California for New York to pursue a political career. After serving in the state legislature, he was elected as a representative to the U.S. Congress, serving from 1853 to 1855. He cut a colorful swath in Washington. According to the *Dictionary of American Biography*: "His congressional speeches were filled with literary quotations, historical and classical allusions, statistics, innumerable adjectives, and witty personal remarks that called forth frequent laughter."

During the Civil War, he participated in 18 battles, including Bull Run and McClellan's peninsular campaign. In 1864 President Abraham Lincoln appointed him governor of the Idaho Territory, which

was a wild, lawless region at the time. Lyon reportedly was "a polished misfit in a country of mining camps[;] he amazed, amused, and antagonized." In actuality, his enlightened treatment of Native Americans caused many of his contemporaries to despise and condemn him unfairly.

Lyon proved to be a rather casual caretaker of his responsibilities, often absent from the territory. J.S. Butler, publisher of the *Boisé News*, wrote in his autobiography, *Butler's Life and Times*, that Lyon "was a conceited, peculiar man, and made many enemies, and misappropriate[d] . . . public funds." A diametrically opposed commentary was written by an *Idaho Scraps* newspaper correspondent, who considered Lyon to be "a revolving light on the coast of scampdom."

Lyon was appointed to a second term as governor. In the quest for financial gain, he became embroiled in a diamond scam that had Lyon and miners in Idaho's Owyhee County prospecting alleged "diamond fields" in the hills under cover of darkness. The hunt produced only barrels of bright quartz and shiny pebbles.

After the "diamond insanity," as H.H. Bancroft related in *History of Washington, Idaho, and Montana, 1845-1889*, the disappointed Lyon returned to New York, where he seems to have immersed himself in studies of numismatics and history until his death in 1875.

Colorful scamps and wily characters abound in California gold-rush lore. Next month, we'll encounter mystery and adventure with Colonel H.L. Webb's California Company. •

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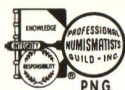
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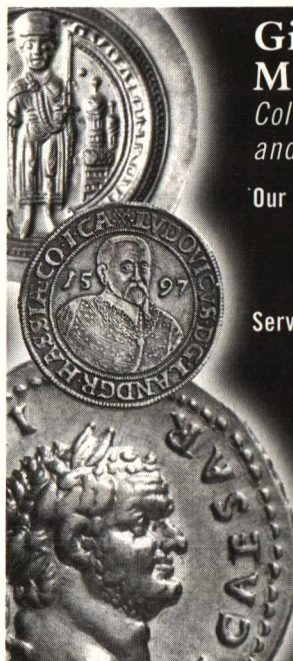


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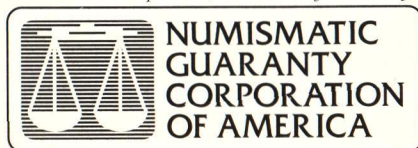
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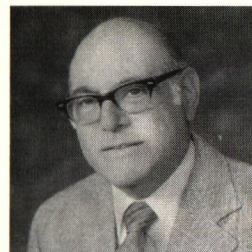
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# Alfred Robinson Struck Copies of Early American Issues

**A**merican numismatics grew and matured in the 1860s. As many new collectors took up the hobby and discovered the scarcity of this country's earliest coins, entrepreneurs produced copies of rare coins to fill holes in collections. One successful marketer of such struck copies was Alfred S. Robinson.

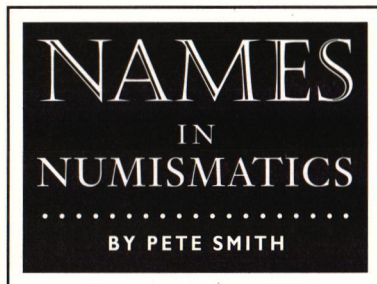
A resident of Hartford, Connecticut, Alfred S. Robinson was born in 1836, the son of a prosperous banker and real-estate investor. He worked as a clerk for the banking firm of Bissell and Company, where his father was senior partner. Robinson's father died in 1862, and Alfred inherited a small trust and income from real-estate rents. Robinson left Bissell and Company that year to establish a private office. He married Emily P. Haynes, and in 1878 he died heavily in debt.

His first numismatic production was a fantasy piece with the look of a colonial coin. His "Non Vi Virtute" cent featured an obverse similar to the New York cent of 1786 (he advertised it as a "George Clinton Medalet"). The reverse, depicting an eagle, was not based on any colonial coin. Robinson struck 6 pieces in silver and 54 in copper before destroying the dies (made by Boston die-sinker Joseph Merriman).

One curious Robinson piece is the "Non Dependens Status" copper dated 1778. It shows the bust of George III on the obverse and a seated Indian on the reverse. Robinson commissioned George Lovett to cut dies for this issue in 1862,

and struck 100 pieces in copper and 6 in silver.

The original model for this issue



is a mystery. Robinson probably based his copy on an illustration rather than an actual coin. Sylvester Crosby listed an engraved example in his *Early Coins of America*, published in 1875. Today, about three engraved or retooled examples are known, but none can be traced to a specific producer.

Robinson's later copy of the Brasher doubloon was a good reproduction of the design, but struck in copper rather than gold. His copies of the Rosa Americana copper and New England token were close facsimiles of these colonial coins.

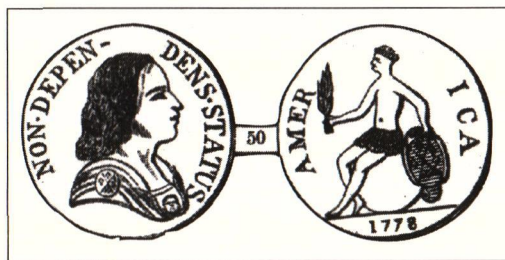
The "Alfred S. Robinson Historical Series" of medals honored popular heroes of his time. The first issue

honored Revolutionary War hero "Mad" Anthony Wayne; the second paid tribute to Robert Fulton, whose steamboat *Clermont* sailed the Hudson River in 1807. This was followed by medals for Andrew Jackson and Henry Clay. Added to the series posthumously was President Martin Van Buren.

While most of Robinson's medals were struck in small mintages—100 or less in each metal—his 1860 Fireman's medal comprised 10,000 copies in copper and 2,000 in brass. And, while his other medals found a market only among coin collectors, his Fireman's medal was intended for sale to firemen as well as the general public.

Robinson favored the Democratic Party (or "anyone but Lincoln"), and his medals reflected his beliefs. The Van Buren medal, for example, called the President "The Fearless Democrat." He hailed John C. Fremont, "The Coming Man" (proposed as a candidate to run against Abraham Lincoln for the Republican Party nomination in 1864), for his defeat of Stonewall Jackson in 1862.

During the Civil War, Robinson produced envelopes for sale to Northerners. These "patriotic cov-



One of Alfred Robinson's struck copies, a "Non Dependens Status" copper dated 1778, probably was not based on a real coin. Crosby listed an engraved example of the piece in his 1875 book, *Early Coins of America*.



ers" represent a huge specialty area for stamp collectors and students of postal history. In 1862 he offered groups of 1,000 varieties for \$20.

Several sales conducted by Robinson are listed in Emmanuel Joseph Attinelli's 1876 reference, *Numisgraphics*. Copies of his medals were among the lots for sale, and his catalog descriptions reveal how many were produced. The first sales (1861-62) would be considered successful, realizing \$403 and \$503; these also were the years of his greatest activity as a medal producer. His sale of October 22, 1867, took in \$22.37, and his sale of April 29, 1870, brought only \$10.50. These last sales were not considered successful, and his career as a "great numismatist" faded.

The obverse of his first "personal" medal is based loosely on the Granby

copper. The dies were created by George Lovett, with the reverse describing Robinson's business interests: ALFRED S. ROBINSON/NUMISMATIST &/NOTARY PUBLIC/DEALER IN/STOCKS, BONDS, NOTES/LAND WARRANTS/UNCURRENT MONEY/& ALL KINDS OF/AMERICAN & FOREIGN/SPECIE/HARTFORD, CONN. 1861.

Only a single specimen is known of Robinson's last medallic production—a storecard, issued after 1876, on which he advertised his business address at 309 Main Street in Hartford. The other side of the piece promoted the Day Griswold dry goods store.

His accomplishments as a numismatist would hardly be noticed had collectors not acquired copies of his medals. Robinson also is remem-

bered in a small monograph by Hartford resident J. Doyle DeWitt, *Alfred S. Robinson—Hartford Numismatist*, listing his medals. It was published by the Connecticut Historical Society in 1968.

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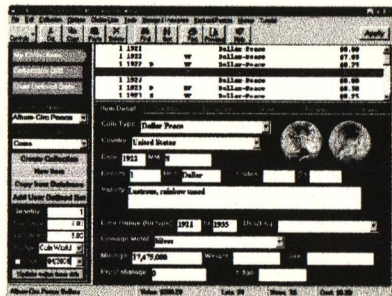
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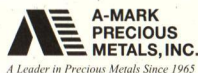


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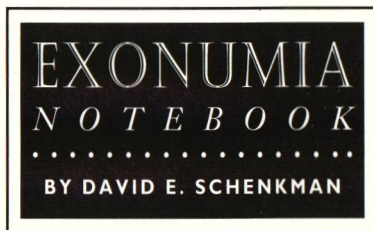
# Medal Honors President of 1895 Atlanta Exposition

**M**OST WORLD'S FAIRS and expositions of the 19th and early 20th centuries were very rich from the standpoint of numismatic output. As those who collect these items know, literally hundreds of different pieces were issued in conjunction with major events, such as the United States Centennial Exposition of 1876 and the 1892-93 World's Columbian Exposition. The great variety of material that emanated from the expositions included official medals, award medals for the many exhibits, souvenir tokens and medals that were sold to visitors, and advertising tokens and medals.

Inspired by the popularity of the Columbian Exposition, the citizens of Atlanta, Georgia, determined that "a great Industrial Exhibition, centrally located in the growing and revitalized South, would mark an important era in the history of the country." And what better place to hold such an event than Atlanta, a rapidly growing commercial metropolis and railroad center.

The idea for the exposition is credited to Colonel W.A. Hemphill of the *Atlanta Constitution* newspaper. The project was organized following a meeting of interested citi-

zens, and nearly a quarter of a million dollars quickly was pledged. The United States government



added \$200,000 to the fund, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Located at Piedmont Park, the "Cotton States and International Exposition" opened on September 18, 1895, and remained there until the end of the year. Nearly 800,000 people passed through the gates during that 3½-month period. The event helped to establish Atlanta as "the major city of the Southeast."

In comparison to the two previously mentioned expositions, the number of numismatic items origi-

nating from the Atlanta event was small. The only published article I am aware of that includes a listing of such pieces was co-authored by William D. Hyder and R.W. Colbert and appeared in the August 1978 issue of the *TAMS Journal*.

Appropriately, the first piece listed is the official medal of the exposition. It was struck by the United States Mint, and, judging by the large number of examples extant, the mintage was quite large. This 34mm bronze medal depicts Henry W. Grady, who, as editor of the *Atlanta Constitution*, had done much to heal the wounds between the North and the South. On the reverse is a bale of cotton; above, a phoenix rising from the flames symbolizes the rebirth of Atlanta following its burning during the Civil War.

The authors illustrate and describe a variety of other tokens, medals and badges from the exposition. One interesting piece, struck

Actual Size: 99mm

The author has seen just one example of this large, cast medal featuring a bust of Atlanta banker Charles A. Collier, president of the 1895 Cotton States and Industrial Exposition. The reverse depicts a phoenix rising from the flames, symbolizing Atlanta's rebirth.





on a 38mm aluminum planchet, has a bust of Frederick Douglass on the obverse, while depicting the Negro Building on the reverse. Also illustrated in the article is the official award medal, which was struck in gold, silver and bronze by the Gorham Manufacturing Company. According to Hyder and Colbert, a total of 1,543 medals was awarded. Obviously the exposition featured a large number of exhibits.

As a Maryland resident, I found a hanging badge pictured in the article of special interest. The piece consists of two, 44mm, celluloid discs banded by a metal ring and suspended from a black-and-orange ribbon. Issued, as it says on the reverse, under the auspices of the Merchants and Manufacturers Association of Baltimore, it commemo-

rates Maryland Day at the exposition (December 6). A large, Maryland State flag is featured on the obverse.

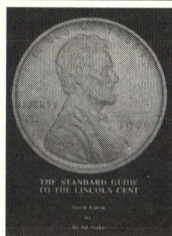
The medal illustrated here is not listed in the *TAMS Journal* article, and I assume it is rare. I have never seen another example. The obverse of this 99mm, cast piece shows a bust of Charles A. Collier facing left, with his name to the left. At right, in incuse letters, is COPYRIGHTED 95 H.& J. The reverse depicts a phoenix rising from the flames, with the date 1864 (the year Atlanta was burned) below. Above, in two lines, is 18-ATLANTA-95/RESURGENS, while below is PRESIDENT•C•S•&•I•E•.

Atlanta banker Charles A. Collier was president of the Cotton States and Industrial Exposition, so it is not surprising that a medal was issued in his honor. What is surprising, at

least to me, is the fact that it is so rare. I know nothing about the medal or who was responsible for its issuance. I assume, judging from its large size, that it was not intended for general distribution.

I suspect that memorabilia of the 1895 Cotton States and International Exposition is not as popular with collectors as that of the larger events. That's good news for anyone wanting to start a collection, since prices, for the most part, should be reasonable. However, as is the case with most types of tokens and medals, patience is necessary because items do not appear on the marketplace very often.

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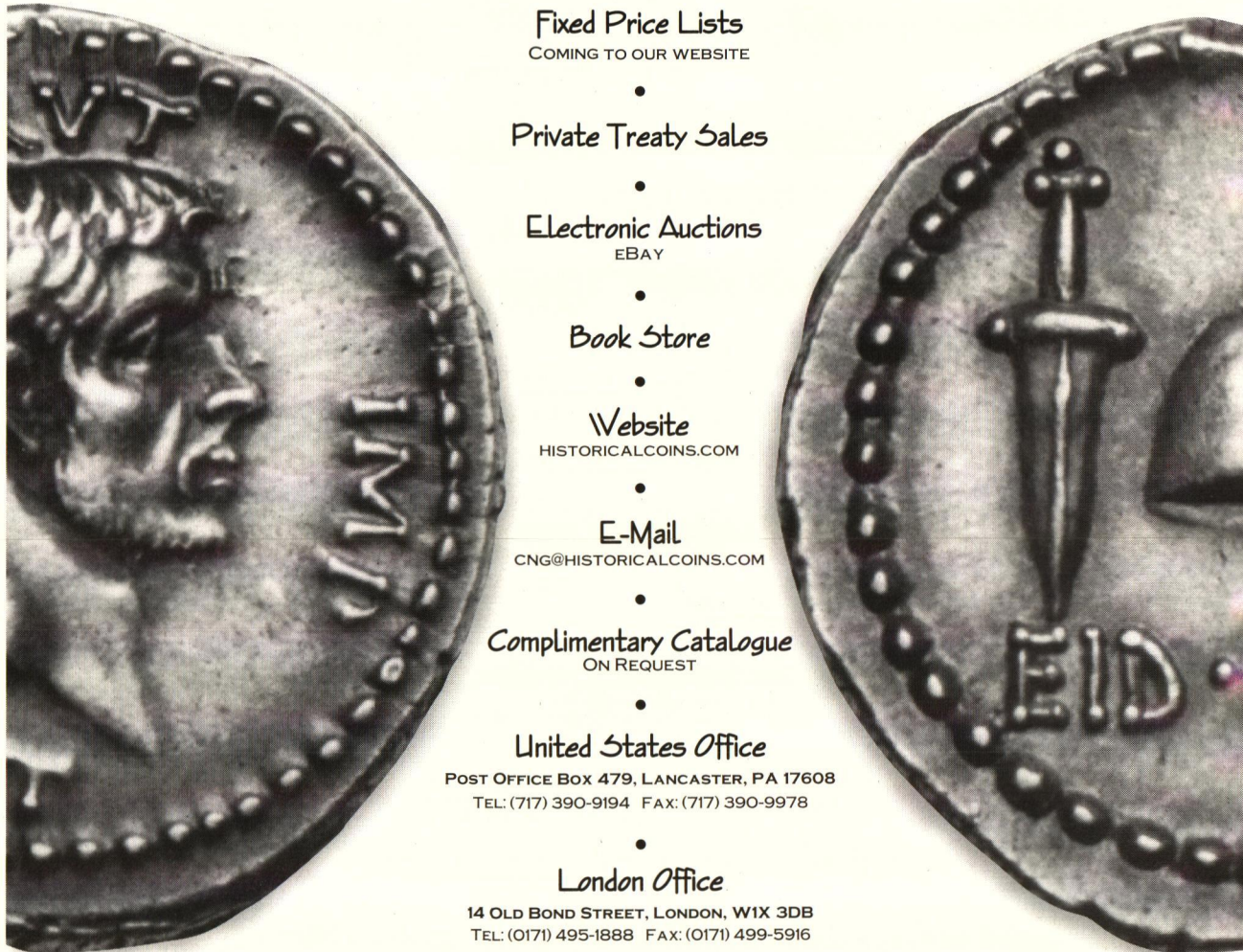
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# Censorship in Ancient Rome

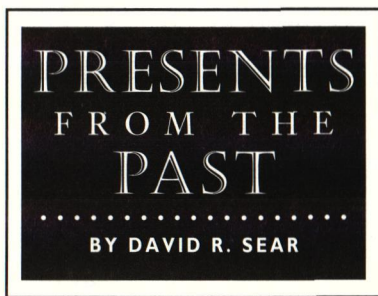
**I**N ANCIENT ROME, the office of censor was of early Republican origin, dating from 443 B.C., when it was established as a civil magistracy charged primarily with the important task—formerly the responsibility of the consuls—of drawing up and maintaining the official list of Roman citizens (*census*). Every 4 years, two censors took office for an 18-month term. In later times, this became less regular, with 5 or more years often elapsing between censorial elections.

Censors possessed extremely wide-ranging powers, including supervision of the moral conduct of the citizenry, revision of the membership of the Senate, and responsibility for the leasing of revenue-producing public property, such as state land, forests, and mines. It was the censors who negotiated contracts with the *publicani*, or tax collectors, sometimes extending even to the sale of the rights to collect taxes for an entire province. Clearly, the scope of their power and influence was enormous, hence the relatively short term limit.

The most celebrated holder of the office of censor in Republican times was M. Porcius Cato (234-149 B.C.), who, together with his former consular colleague L. Valerius Flaccus, was successful in the censorial elections of 184 B.C. During his time in office, "Cato the Censor," as he came to be known, instituted rigorous measures to combat what he perceived as the moral decline of Roman society from its traditional values, which he ascribed to the growing influence of foreign (principally Greek) cultures. He thus became a pillar of conservatism, not just for his con-

temporaries but for many generations to come.

Cato and Flaccus employed the



powers of the censorial office to the fullest extent. In their ruthless review of the membership of the Senate, they disbarred L. Quinctius Flaminius, brother of the vanquisher of Philip V of Macedon, for a supposed moral offense during his consulship; and deprived another hero, L. Cornelius Scipio Asiagenus, conqueror of Antiochus III of Syria, of his public horse. Several years earlier, Cato was prominent in the "trials of the Scipios," in which Asiagenus and his even more famous brother Scipio Africanus, conqueror of Hannibal, were accused of embezzling public funds and accepting bribes from the defeated Antiochus.

From a numismatic standpoint, the censorship was significant from the

very beginning of the Roman coinage. It seems highly likely that censors were the magistrates originally charged with the task of overseeing the issue of currency at Rome. In this capacity, they would have been responsible for production of the silver didrachm coinage and the cast *aes grave* pieces from the early 280s B.C. to the collapse of the monetary system during the middle years of the war against Hannibal.

Having failed in their duty of maintaining the integrity of the state currency, the censors likely were relieved of their responsibilities under terms of the currency reform of circa 211 B.C., which saw the silver didrachm replaced by the denarius. Their duties would have been transferred to the newly established college of moneyers, which comprised three individuals elected on an annual basis.

In the 1st century B.C., the growing influence of powerful military leaders (*imperators*) and the consequent, gradual decline of senatorial authority saw a change in the role of the censors. The dictator Sulla (died 79 B.C.) severely curtailed their powers. Although many of these were restored, censorial elections became very infrequent. Finally, in 22 B.C., soon after the establishment of an autocratic government in Rome, the



Not Actual Size  
**A silver didrachm issued around 280-276 B.C. was the first precious-metal coin produced under the direction of the Roman censors.**





A silver denarius was issued circa 123 B.C. by moneyer C. Porcius Cato, possibly a grandson of the celebrated "Cato the Censor."

election of censors ceased altogether.

But Rome's wily, new master, Emperor Augustus (27 B.C. to A.D. 14), was fully aware of the usefulness of the old censorial power. He and his lieutenant Marcus Agrippa had the *ensoria potestas* ("power of the censorship") conferred upon them. Like Cato the Censor almost two centuries before, Augustus had a keen interest in restoring traditional values of Roman morality: his censorial

powers provided a convenient and traditional method by which to regulate what he saw as society's shortcomings in this direction.

In A.D. 47-48, Claudius, who possessed a passionate curiosity for all things antiquarian, became the first emperor to hold the censorship himself. He shared the office with his close friend Lucius Vitellius, father of the future Emperor Aulus Vitellius (A.D. 69), who commemorated the distinguished career of his late father on coinage. On these coins, Lucius' tenure of the censorial office—together with his three consulships—is proudly proclaimed in the inscription L VITELLIVS COS III CENSOR. One remarkable and extremely rare brass sestertius type actually shows Lucius Vitellius in his capacity as censor, reviewing a procession of

senators—a graphic reminder of the revival of the old censorial power of controlling Senate membership.

But it is on coinage of the Flavian dynasty—Vespasian (A.D. 69-79) and his sons Titus (79-81) and Domitian (81-96)—that most frequent reference to the censorship is found. To facilitate efforts to restore the damaged economy of the Empire following the devastating civil wars of A.D. 68-69, Vespasian assumed the censorship in 73, with his elder son, Titus, as his colleague in the ancient office. This gave the government additional powers to intervene directly in many details of business life. It also assisted the emperor in regulating the membership of the Senate, with the aim of improving the quality of provincial administration and high military command. The coinage of A.D. 73-74

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gives special prominence to the Imperial assumption of the censorial office, utilizing obverse inscriptions such as IMP CAES VESP AVG CENS for Vespasian and T CAES IMP VESP CENS for Titus. However, the title was discontinued immediately following the lapse of the office in A.D. 74.

The final mention of the censorship on Roman coinage comes during the principate of Vespasian's younger son, Domitian, who reigned for 15 years until his assassination in September 96. The emperor seems to have had a passion for accumulating titles and offices, all of which receive prominent notice in the inscriptions on Imperial coinage.

Domitian first assumed the censorship in A.D. 85, continuing a tradition established by his father and brother. The title *Censoria Potestate*,



**The reverse of a brass dupondius (left) of Vespasian (A.D. 69-79) bears the title CENS below two cornucopiae. The obverse of a copper as (right) of Domitian (A.D. 81-96) carries the title CENS PER before the emperor's portrait.**

variously abbreviated, is advertised on coinage of that year. However, Domitian decided later in the year that instead of allowing his censorial

power to lapse after the normal term, he would continue to hold the office on an indefinite basis. The new arrangement was commemorated by the amended title *Censor Perpetuus*, normally abbreviated to CENS PER, which appears as a regular feature on almost every subsequent issue to the end of the reign.

Domitian's principate ultimately degenerated into a reign of terror, and with his assassination and the accession of Nerva (A.D. 96-98), the title of censor disappears forever from the currency of Imperial Rome. Following Domitian's example, emperors merely assumed the censorship as an accoutrement of the Imperial office. It probably was thought best to omit all mention in coin inscriptions because of its special association with the memory of the hated tyrant. •

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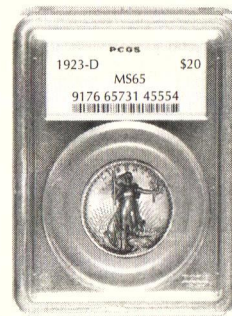
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# Voting the Electronic Way

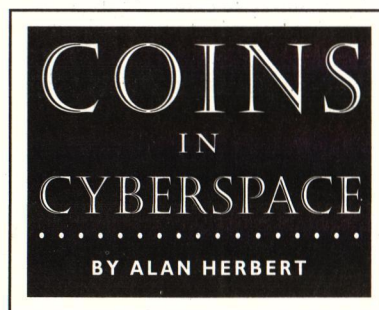
**T**HIS MONTH'S COLUMN takes its cue from the national headlines. By the time you read this, our next President hopefully will have been confirmed. The election (and some of the problems associated with counting votes) has a direct bearing on the American Numismatic Association's election of officers this year.

One of the first things to get shoved aside by the rhetoric is the old adage that "every vote counts." I'm not about to get into whether every vote was counted. What is important is that a small handful of voters dictated the course of our nation for the next four years. They voted, but perhaps you, or someone you know, didn't.

In the last ANA election, less than a third of the membership actually voted. Three of the governors were elected by a margin of only 100 to 200 votes. This figure is close to the "margin of error" cited in our Presidential elections. Indeed, there are other similarities—and differences—between this and our own ANA elections, with big changes in the wind.

The ANA's Information Technology (IT) Committee has been working on improving the Association's election process and has recommended a firm that provides electronic and conventional paper balloting, as well as other methods of voting. Unfortunately, there wasn't enough time to get alternate methods of voting in place for the 2001 election; however, we hope to have things ready for the ANA's 2003 race. If things go according to plan, members will choose a voting method that is best suited for them. (This would re-

quire a revision of the Association's bylaws.) Our current form of voting most closely resembles absentee bal-



lots used in general elections, with one important exception: You don't have to ask for a ballot, as it automatically is sent to you. You still have to check off your choices and mail it back, but most of the work has been done for you.

Electronic balloting, which involves logging on to a computer, visiting an Internet site, identifying yourself and marking a ballot, already is used by a number of corporations, unions and other large groups of scattered voters. It was employed in Arizona's Democratic primary last spring and used on a very limited basis in the recent general election in that state.

The advantages of casting a vote through your computer (or one at a library or a friend's house) are fairly obvious. Critics still are not satisfied that such voting is completely secure, but this concern is being addressed and remedied by the several companies already coordinating electronic balloting. The safeguards they have initiated probably at least equal those in place for general elections and, from what we've been hear-

ing recently, may well exceed them.

For many years, the American Numismatic Association has contracted with an independent auditing firm to handle all phases of balloting for its biannual election. All the ANA provides is a list of members entitled to vote. The Board has been—and continues to be—strongly in favor of keeping the election at arm's length, requiring the auditing firm to tabulate the ballots and provide a final count of the votes each candidate receives. This helps prevent ballot-box stuffing and assures the membership that the election procedure is honest and accurate.

If new voting procedures are introduced for the 2003 election, you likely will have a choice of using either paper or electronic ballots. However, no one can force you to vote. You can let others choose your governing board, or you can participate personally. Be proud of your ANA membership. Take advantage of the election process and help determine the course of your Association. In this year's election, I hope that at least 50 percent of the membership will cast a ballot . . . and I expect to see a 10- to 20-percent increase over that in 2003 thanks to electronic balloting.

Readers are invited to share their comments regarding computers and numismatics. Send them along to me at [AnswerMan2@aol.com](mailto:AnswerMan2@aol.com). •

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# Remembering the U.S.S. MAINE

THE TOWN FATHERS of America's southernmost city, Key West, Florida, harbored a macabre sense of humor. Evidence of this can be found at a major point of interest: Key West's historic city cemetery, a tourist attraction located in the "dead center" of Old Town, and bordered by a street named "Passover Lane."

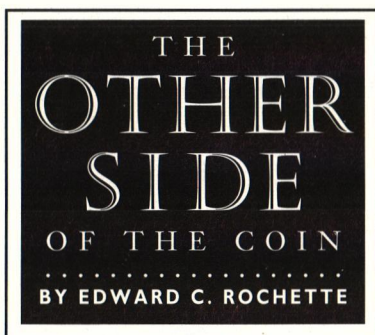
Today's promotional brochures invite intrigued visitors to seek out the memorials to eccentric souls buried throughout the graveyard. For many of the departed, this is not their first, but second, resting place—the cemetery was relocated to higher, hallowed ground in 1847 after a hurricane swept interred bodies from their original graves.

A visitor's map marks the burial plot of General Abraham Lincoln Sawyer, who stood 46 inches tall in his stocking feet. The diminutive general's dying wish to be buried in a full-sized casket was fulfilled. In contrast, the life-size statue of Earl Saunders Johnson watches over fellow cadavers. Lest he become restless and wander about, Johnson stands in his own earthly shoes purposely encased in cement.

The grave of B.P. "Pearl" Roberts attracts scores of visitors who come to pay their respects or, more often, to stare curiously at her headstone. Ms. Roberts secured a place in funerary history with these last words meant to set her doubting physician straight—"I told you I was sick."

Fortunately, an obsession with the eccentric is brought to naught as one comes upon the United States Navy cemetery plot. Dedicated on December 11, 1898, the centerpiece of

the site is a bronze statue of a sailor dressed in a naval uniform of the Spanish-American war. The monu-

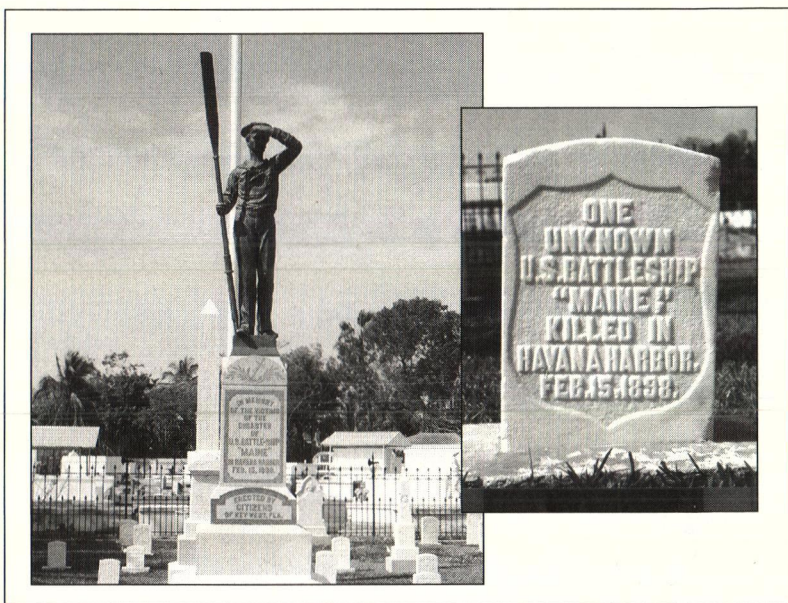


ment, paid for by citizens of Key West, honors the memory of sailors killed in Havana Harbor on February 15, 1898, when a mysterious ex-

plosion destroyed the United States battleship *Maine*. Of the 350 men aboard, 266 were killed.

The American press of the day, reminiscent of today's media, rushed to judgment by claiming that either a torpedo or an underwater mine was responsible for the "extreme explosion" aboard the vessel. The press whipped the reading public into a frenzy, and, within 10 weeks, Congress declared war on Spain. (It was not until 1976—78 years after the sinking of the *Maine*—that an underwater investigation conducted by the U.S. Navy led to the admission that the explosion was internal and not the result of enemy action.)

Spain was defeated with apparent ease, and our nation's territorial



Tourists visiting Key West Cemetery will not only find eccentric resting places. The centerpiece of the U.S. Navy Plot is a bronze monument dedicated to the sailors who lost their lives in the explosion of the battleship *Maine* in Havana Harbor on February 15, 1898.





Souvenir, cent-sized pocket pieces proved popular with the citizenry of the day. "Remember the *Maine*" was an often heard battle cry, as was the promise to free Cuba.



expansion was one fruit of the victory. Puerto Rico and Guam were ceded to the United States, and Spain traded its rule over the Philippines for a paltry \$20 million. Cuba was granted independence from Spain, severing ties with its former mother country.

Time has allowed the actions and consequences of war with Spain to commingle with legend. For numismatists, however, the war created a vast number of numismatic souvenirs. America's battle cry, "Remember the *Maine*," was stamped on the surface of countless tokens, medals and advertising pieces. A series of articles written by William S. Dewey (a seventh cousin of Admiral George Dewey, the "Hero of Manila Bay") for *The Numismatist* provides the best record of issues published. •

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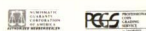
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# An Offer You Can't Refuse?

I FELT PRETTY special when I read my E-mail last week and got the surprise of my life. Yes, I watch the television show *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?*, and yes, we would all like to win a million dollars—but here was an opportunity for me to earn \$2.25 million by doing almost nothing. And it was directed to me because of my known honesty and integrity. It seemed like an offer I just couldn't refuse.

This "strictly confidential" letter came to me from a gentleman called "Dr. D," who represented himself as chairman of the contract award committee of the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation. He seemed to have a money problem, and he was sure I could help solve it. Now I don't know much about finances in Nigeria, but I sure was flattered to think that a high-ranking official would call on me for help.

In his letter, Dr. D explained that his committee had amassed 7.5 million United States dollars in over-billing for contracts. He was looking for a way to get some of this money back into Nigeria, but for that to happen, it had to go through a U.S. bank. He was sure that with my honest background, he could trust me to collect the money, take my share and give him the rest. For my trouble, I would be paid 30 percent of the total amount.

He assured me that my part of the transaction was easy and 100-percent safe. All I had to do was allow him to deposit the full amount in my bank account. Later, he would come to America, and I could give him his share of the money. How could anyone not believe someone who was

that trusting?

After reading the part about how I should send him all the informa-



tion about my bank account and other "necessary" information, I began to get suspicious. He seemed like such a nice man, I hated to let him down, but in this case it just didn't seem worth the risk for a measly million dollars after taxes. I think I could do better by trying out for the TV show.

## File #664

Readers in California and Missouri sent me clippings of an advertisement that ran in their local newspapers. It looks like a news release, but actually is an ad for a fairly common, Chinese cash coin. Priced at \$9.95 per coin plus \$3 shipping and handling, it seems quite expensive for an unimpressive copper coin.

The story related in the ad made it sound as if these coins came from a recovered treasure trove of money stolen by Jenghiz (Genghis) Khan about a thousand years ago. The coins are being made available to collectors, historians and museums because of their great importance as historical documents. We can't argue with the last point; the same could be said of nearly all coins. That is why we collect them.

I chuckled when the ad indicated that the calligraphy on the coin pictured in the ad could never be completely deciphered. If they had only turned the coin right-side up, someone might have known that it reads "Chêng Ho Tung Pao." The ad did at least correctly attribute the piece. It is a 1-cash piece of Chêng Ho, from the Northern Sung Dynasty, made about 1111 to 1117 A.D.

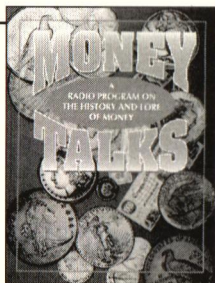
The story about Genghis Khan may or may not be true, but it is a good tale, and I guess that is what makes these coins desirable. Although they are relatively common, they definitely are worth owning.

## File #665

There is no getting around it, colorized coins are extremely popular, and I have no quarrel with anyone who enjoys collecting them. As a matter of fact, some of them are rather attractive. They seem to have caught the fancy of a whole new generation of coin enthusiasts, and now you can find colorized 50 State quarters, silver Eagle bullion coins, Sacagawea dollars and many other items. Prices are not cheap, because adding color to these coins calls for a bit of artistic skill and a lot of labor.

New on the scene are a pair of dollar coins that have been painted to enhance the beauty of the Susan B. Anthony (SBA) and Sacagawea designs. They are being marketed at \$19.98 for the pair. In case you doubt these are real coins, they come with a certificate of authenticity. A similar ad from another firm offers a colorized Sacagawea dollar for \$19.95 and includes a free SBA





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In both instances, this attempt to make the Anthony dollar beautiful seems to be a dismal failure. The result is something even more grim than the untouched original. The quality of hand-colored coins varies with the method used, and anyone serious about collecting such coins should carefully examine any pieces they intend to purchase. Some are well-done, but others are atrocious.

#### File #666

A recent ad offers two-headed Washington quarters for sale at \$7.98 each. You also can buy a two-tailed quarter for the same price. There is nothing new about this type of offering. These so-called "matching coins" have been around for years at about the same price. They

are, of course, made by joining two genuine coins. It is accomplished in a manner that is barely detectable.

These are fun pieces that often convince non-numismatists that they are seeing something unbelievable. It sometimes is subtly suggested that these pieces could be used in games.

Until this year, every numismatist knew that no such coin could be made at the United States Mint, so they were no threat to the hobby. All that has changed with the appearance of genuine, Mint-made mules that combine a dime with a cent, or a quarter with a dollar, and who knows what else might be found before this column is published.

The operative word here is "caution." Be advised that privately made two-headed coins exist right alongside Mint-produced oddities. •

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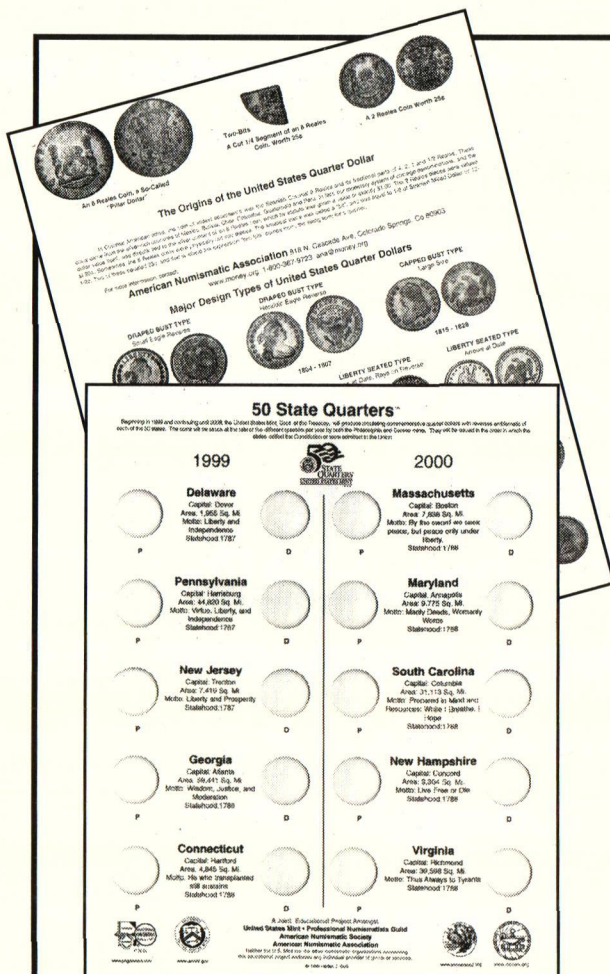
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## Numismatic Argonaut

*continued from page 34*

for surety, and got right to work. On October 17, 1850, he filed an "Inventory & Appraisement" of the estate, which was reckoned by appraisers Pepper hired to be worth \$2,469.37. Included in this inventory were two items that confirmed Roper's status as an argonaut: property in Panama worth \$661.25, and 4 ounces of gold dust that were appraised at \$64.

Other documents in the administrative papers recorded expenses for postage to California and for securing a power of attorney in San Francisco. Since the good doctor passed away in August 1850, he most probably did leave Philadelphia in 1849; it would have taken months to make the voyage, especially considering the time needed to acquire property in Panama. It seems highly unlikely he could have done all of this during the 7½ months of 1850 that elapsed before he died.

Not included in the appraiser's assessment was Roper's numismatic collection, per the following note:

There is likewise a Collection of Coins which decedent Hypothicated with Messrs. ~~Bailey~~ [crossed out on original] A.B. Kitchen for money advanced him. And as the sum advanced is considerably more than the value of the Coins the Undersigned have made no Inventory of Appraisement of them.

Since no auction record for numismatic items in the United States existed at that time, the appraisers undoubtedly used face or bullion value to estimate the worth of the collection—which proved to be far too conservative. The word "hypothicated" is significant; it is derived from "hypothec," a term in

Roman and civil law for a security held by a creditor on the property of a debtor without possession of it. This means that while Roper's coins never left his family's possession, they had to be sold to liquidate the debt he owed A.B. Kitchen, a fact not previously known. Kitchen was not, so far as can be determined, a numismatist.

Pepper kept the affairs of the Roper estate moving smartly along. On November 13, 1850, most of Roper's household effects (minus the coin collection, as noted) were placed on the auction block of Moses Thomas & Sons, then located at 93 Walnut Street in Philadelphia. Pepper's records indicate a realization of \$2,479.57, within \$10 of the appraised amount. Intriguingly, Pepper's handwritten inventory of the sale includes "two medallions" that sold for \$1.50 each. If these were numismatic in nature, this sale should be added to Attinelli's listing in *Numisgraphics*, but from the terse description, it is impossible to tell; the medallions could have been made of jasperware or some other material.

We do learn a fair amount about Roper from the household items sold at this auction and/or included in the October 17, 1850, "Inventory and Appraisement." Roper's listing as a dentist in city directories is confirmed by an "operating chair," "cases of dental instruments" and "dentist's spittoon." The good doctor also was a pioneering photographer, for "Daguerre apps." and "Daguerre app. & tripod" were among his effects.

Even more notable was the presence of an "Ether apparatus" and "chloroform inhalers." Dr. Crawford Long first used ether as an anesthetic in 1846, and Roper was

among the earliest to follow in his footsteps. In fact, Roper did more than copy Long's methods; on page 36 of the October 21, 1848, issue of *Scientific American* (Vol. 4, Issue 5), under the heading "List of Patents Issued from the United States Patent Office," is the following notation: "To Lewis Roper, of Philadelphia, Pa., for improvements in apparatus for administering ether. Patented October 10, 1948." In a subsequent issue of *Scientific American* (December 2, 1848, ironically the very day that Roper's daughter Robina Ann died), the improvement is described as follows: "claims the mouthpiece . . . fitting closely over the mouth and nose so as to administer the vapour of ether through these two organs simultaneously and in combination therewith . . ." Clearly, both avocationally and vocationally, Roper was thoroughly up-to-date.

Over the months following this first sale of November 13, 1850, the Moses Thomas venue would see a lot of George Pepper. The administrator was back on November 21, selling lots that were not paid for by purchasers at the November 13 auction. This mop-up sale realized \$79.35. A lot comprising books was put on the Thomas block around Christmas 1850, bringing \$54.18. Pepper went again to 93 Walnut Street on April 17, 1851, to sell the residue of the Roper estate. As it happened, this auction, which realized \$161.03, should be listed in *Numisgraphics*. Pepper's inventory indicates that 14 medals were part of this public offering. Since the Roper/Kitchen sale took place nearly three months earlier and, as we shall see, more than satisfied the Roper estate's obligation to the Kitchen estate, perhaps these medals were unsold remainders from the Roper/



Kitchen auction. Alternatively, it is possible that these medals were not included in that sale. A final auction was held by Thomas on April 24 (results unrecorded), probably to liquidate the last unsold items.

### The Roper/Kitchen Sale

THE ROPER ADMINISTRATIVE papers shed some new light on the history-making Roper/Kitchen sale. For one thing, the auction was not, as has been believed, a one-night affair. In a paper titled "Statement by Way of an Inventory Account of the Personal Estate of the Late Lewis Roper, M.D. Deceased," there is this note:

In addition to the accounts filed of the sales of the personal estate of the Decedent; there was filed on the 22nd of March, 1851, an account of a sale by order of the executors of the Estate of A.B. Kitchen, deceased, by M. Thomas & Sons on the 20th and 21st days of February, 1851, of certain articles which had been pledged by the Decedent to the said A.B. Kitchen & which were not included in either of the Inventories & Appraisements of this Decedent.

Ironically, there was another death connected with this collection. A.B. Kitchen did not live to recoup his loan to Roper, for which the coins served as security.

The appraisers of the Roper estate were remarkably accurate in predicting what the doctor's household articles would bring at auction, but had no way of knowing what the coins might fetch in public competition. A note under the heading "The first Account of George S. Pepper, Administrator of Lewis Roper, M.D. Deceased" shows just how wrong the appraisers were in saying the value of the coins was less than the

sum Roper borrowed from Kitchen. The entry for March 3, 1851, "Cash from M. Thomas & Sons for a Sales [SIC] Copper Coins, Books on Coins, Autographs and Coin Case" records a credit to the Roper estate of \$311.26. Obviously, the coins realized more than enough to repay the amount the Roper estate owed the Kitchen estate.

The Roper/Kitchen sale realized a total of \$1,172. The Thomas firm's commission was 10 percent, which reduced the realization to \$1,055. There would be additional costs for catalogs and advertising; these totaled \$8.50 in the November 13, 1850, auction of Roper's household goods, but similar costs are not recorded in the administrative records for the Roper/Kitchen sale. It seems reasonable that both costs would have been much higher for the Roper/Kitchen sale, for there were two printings of the catalog and the sale probably was advertised in other major cities. If we assume that the costs were a little more than five times as much, or \$44, the total realization would be reduced to \$1,011. This suggests Roper borrowed about \$650 from Kitchen; if one adds to that amount two years' interest at 4 percent, the sale of the coins would wipe the slate clean—with \$311 left over.

The Roper administrative papers hold another highly significant piece of numismatic information. Ten, legal-size sheets preserve a manuscript listing of most of the pieces sold in the Roper/Kitchen collection, along with the prices these items brought at auction. This manuscript, although not complete, comprises the earliest non-salesroom list of prices realized to survive for a United States numismatic auction.

The sale was divided into 50 num-

bered and 2 lettered lots, most of which contained multiple, individually listed pieces. An account of the items in the first lot, with its 34 copper medals, does not appear among the administrative papers, but Lots 2-40 and 43-44 are covered. Ironically, Roper owned a piece of California gold even before he became an argonaut: an 1848 "CAL." quarter eagle (Number 13 of Lot 22). The Davids copy of the Roper/Kitchen catalog does not record a buyer. Perhaps this was one of the "14 medals" that appeared in the residue sale of April 17, 1851. It seems likely that, thanks to DuBois, Roper's "CAL." specimen was one of the first strikes of the first commemorative issues from the United States Mint.

### Dr. Roper's Obituary

THE DISCOVERY OF Roper's date of death allowed the author, with the assistance of the Free Library of Philadelphia's Newspaper Center, to unearth Roper's obituary. Published on page 2 of the *Pennsylvania Inquirer* for September 11, 1850, it is reproduced here in its entirety.

DIED—On the 21<sup>st</sup> ult., on board the Steamer *Panama*, in the Gulf of Panama, Dr. LEWIS ROPER.

Dr. Roper, after spending about twelve months in California, was returning to his home in this city, when a fatal disease broke out among the passengers, to which, after a few hours illness, he fell a victim. Dr. R. was well known in this community as a gentleman of the strictest integrity and honor, of a generous and liberal disposition, of great energy of character, and of more than ordinary intelligence and intellectual vigor, while his scientific attainments, and his surpassing skill in his profession, rendered him distinguished abroad, as well as at home. While his death is an



irreparable loss to his devoted family, overwhelming them with grief and anguish, there are many to whom he was endeared by his excellent social qualities, who will long mourn his departure with heartfelt sorrow, and long cherish his memory with the fondest affection.

—H.M.

The author of this obituary—H.M.—is not known. While the “M” might suggest “Mickley” or “Morris,” the first initial fits neither Joseph Mickley, Jacob Giles Morris, nor any of their known relatives. Whoever the author, he or she was on target about Roper’s “scientific attainments.” There also seems no reason to doubt the assertions that Roper was a man of integrity, a celebrated dentist and a devoted family man.

With regard to the location of Roper’s passing, however, there is a wide divergence between this account and that cited in the *San Francisco Historic Record and Genealogy Bulletin*. The latter clearly states that Roper died in San Francisco on August 21, 1850. The author of the obituary just as clearly states that he died aboard the steamer *Panama* in the Gulf of Panama, about 3,500 miles southeast of San Francisco.

If the *Historic Record* is correct, Roper probably is interred in an old San Francisco cemetery. If the *Pennsylvania Inquirer* is correct, Roper likely was buried at sea in the Pacific. Ironically, Panama, like Philadelphia, suffered from horrendous outbreaks of yellow fever, which often killed within hours of the appearance of the first symp-

toms. If yellow fever was the cause of death, fellow passengers on the *Panama*, fearing contagion, surely would have hastily interred the good doctor in the warm waters of the Gulf.

H.M.’s relatively detailed account of the doctor’s passing, the fact that it was reported in Philadelphia only three weeks after it happened, and Roper’s ownership of property in Panama tend to give more credence to the story in the *Pennsylvania Inquirer*.

Roper’s having spent “about twelve months in California,” however, probably is inaccurate. He may have left Philadelphia in August 1849, but transit via the Panamanian isthmus could take months, and there is evidence that he did not arrive in San Francisco until the end of

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At first the dust was used in trade, but in December Young struck 46 \$10 gold pieces before the crucibles broke. Coining continued again in September 1849 with other denominations including \$20s. This is the first \$20 gold piece in the U.S. preceding the regular federal \$20s (March 1850).

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the year.

Dr. Josiah Foster Flagg, a fellow Philadelphia dentist and argonaut, recounted in his journal for December 22, 1849: "I have heard nothing of Roper and think he has not yet arrived [in San Francisco]. When he does I shall call upon him and will see what he intends doing. He will find this place not much like his fine Arch Street residence . . ." (*Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, Vol. 70, 1946, page 396). This makes sense, especially considering that Roper's stopover in Panama had to be of sufficient duration to buy property.

## Reconstructing the Roper Story

IN DECEMBER 1848, Dr. Lewis Roper of Philadelphia was stricken with grief over the death of his

two young daughters. In or around August 1849, he borrowed about \$650 from A.B. Kitchen, pledging his coin collection as security, and set sail for the California gold fields as a bona fide argonaut. He paused in mid-passage long enough to buy property in Panama.

Arriving in California in late 1849 or early 1850, he tried his hand at the gold fields, but, like most of his contemporaries, he experienced only indifferent success, with but a single bag of gold dust to show for his labors.

In the late spring of 1850, he decided to return home and boarded the steamer *Panama* for the first leg of the journey. After a voyage of about 3,500 miles, however, Roper suddenly contracted a contagious disease (probably yellow fever) and

died within hours. Then, as William DuBois noted 22 years later, Lewis Roper "was buried in the Pacific Ocean, on his way home from California . . ."

In death, however, Roper gained numismatic immortality, for his coins were sold to repay the loan to the estate of Mr. Kitchen, who also had passed on. Thus it was that on February 20-21, 1851, the Roper/Kitchen coin collection had its date with destiny on the auction block of Moses Thomas & Sons.

Until now, Dr. Lewis Roper has enjoyed a very curious brand of numismatic fame. While many celebrated the milestone auction that bore his name, no one remembered the man himself. We know much more about him now, but many important details remain obscure.

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When and where was Lewis Roper born? When did he begin to collect coins? When, exactly, did he leave Philadelphia for California? Did the amateur daguerreotypist sit for his own portrait? If so, does the image still exist? Did he ever photograph his coins? If so, it would be among the first photographs of a coin ever taken in the United States.

Clearly, much work remains to document Roper's life and full impact on the field of numismatics. We now know enough, however, to proclaim him a pathfinder, not only as a forty-niner, but also as a pioneering coin collector—truly a numismatic argonaut.

### Acknowledgments

THE AUTHOR OWES a considerable debt to United States Mint as-

sayer and author William DuBois (1810-81), without whose hint in the July 1872 issue of the *American Journal of Numismatics* he never would have begun this article. Dan Owens, a consummate scholar and generous fellow-author, shared his discoveries of the notice of Roper's death and the citation to the doctor's administrative papers, both of crucial importance. Q. David Bowers made many valuable suggestions, including one to contact Owens, and provided an illustration. Barbara Gregory offered suggestions and introductions, and Nicholas Graver rendered assistance on daguerrean matters. Patsy Gerstner, Jack Eckert and Christopher Stanwood illuminated Roper's dental career, and Jim Edmondson provided medical illustrations. P. Scott Rubin shared infor-

mation about the Roper/Kitchen sale catalog.

The Newspaper Center of the Free Library of Philadelphia discovered the Roper obituary, and the Register of Wills of the City of Philadelphia kindly made available copies of Roper's administrative papers. Finally, thanks to Larry Mitchell for pointing the author toward Cornell University's "Making of America" project (available on-line at <http://library5.library.cornell.edu/moa>), the database that yielded the citations to *Scientific American*. •

*Joel Orosz, an executive for a charitable foundation in Michigan, serves on the Numismatic Bibliomania Society board and writes regularly for its publication, THE ASYLUM. A frequent contributor to THE NUMISMATIST, his last article, "The Curious Case of the Collectors Kline," appeared in October 2000.*



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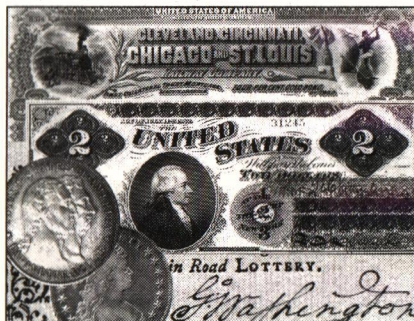
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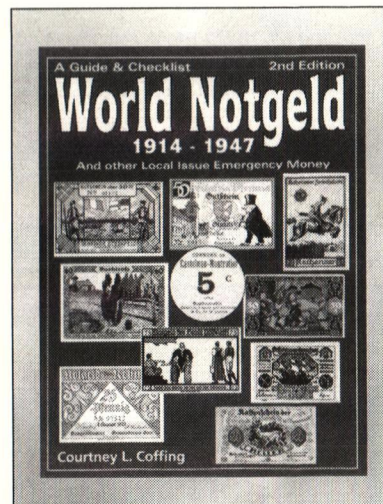
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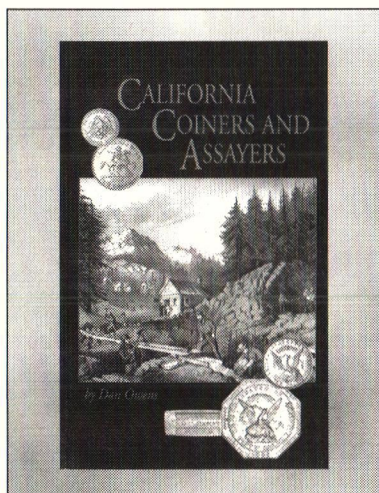
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The book is priced at \$24.95 from the Charlton Press, 2040 Yonge St., Suite 208, Toronto M4S 1Z9, Ontario, Canada, or visit the publisher's web site at [www.charltonpress.com](http://www.charltonpress.com). New editions of *The Charlton Standard Catalogue of Canadian Coins* (\$9.95) and *The Charlton Standard Catalogue of Canadian Colonial Tokens* (\$19.95) also are available. •



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# Membership News



## ANA Candidate Forum Set for Salt Lake Show

Candidates for the ANA Board of Governors will participate in a question-and-answer forum at the Town Hall Meeting scheduled for the ANA's National Money Show™ 2001 in Salt Lake City, Utah, on March 8-10. The meeting will be held in Room 151G of the Salt Palace Convention Center, 100 S. West Temple, from 5-7 p.m. on Friday, March 9.

Each candidate will be given an opportunity to make an opening statement before questions are accepted from the hobby press and the floor. Candidates who are unable to attend the convention can designate a representative to make opening remarks on their behalf. This fourth, consecutive candidate forum for ANA Board hopefuls underscores the Association's continuing effort to provide venues for open exchanges of ideas that benefit both the Association and the hobby.

## YNs Earn Ancient Coins in Revised Program

Junior and student members of the ANA can "earn" quality coins from Greek, Roman, Byzantine and Indian empires by completing selected numismatic activities outlined in the Association's David R. Cervin Ancient Coin Project. "Formerly



**Junior and student ANA members can "earn" these coins from ancient civilizations simply by completing selected numismatic activities.**

known as the 'Roman Coin Project,' this educational program has been renamed for its founder, David R. Cervin, who originated it more than 25 years ago to encourage the collection and study of coins from ancient civilizations," says ANA Education Director Gail Baker. "He did a magnificent job in advancing not only interest in ancient coinage, but also a genuine love of all aspects of numismatics. Because of Cervin's advancing age, and with the generous help of ancient coin expert Harlan Berk, the ANA will now directly administer this program."

Berk, a professional numismatist and president of Harlan J. Berk, Ltd. in Chicago, is donating the coins for this program. He sees it as "a chance to save an important, numismatic educational tool that introduces young collectors to ancient coins and encourages their interest in general numismatics as well.

"This program is not just about

ancient coins—it promotes all areas of numismatics," Berk says. "I am happy to help a really good program and return something to the ANA and numismatics for future generations. Although I am busy, like most everyone else, I am willing to mentor and consult with those who request my help."

An ANA life member and contributing editor to the ANA's monthly journal, *The Numismatist*, Berk has served as a consultant for more than 20 years for the Association's authentication services. He also is vice

### ANA WORLD WIDE WEB SITE [www.money.org](http://www.money.org)

#### E-MAIL ADDRESSES

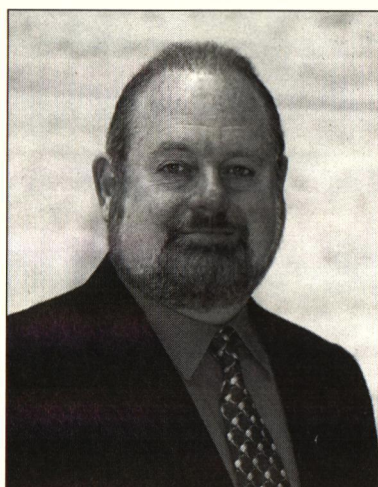
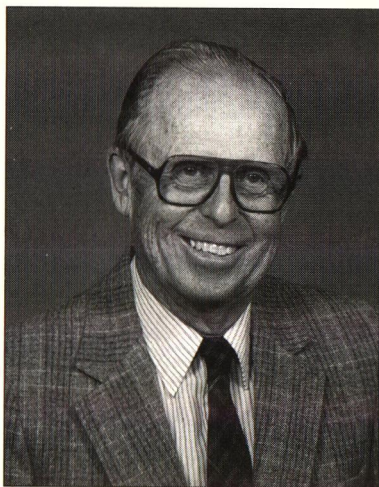
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### American Numismatic Association

818 North Cascade Avenue  
Colorado Springs, CO 80903-3279  
Telephone: 719/632-2646  
Toll-Free: 800/367-9723  
Fax: 719/634-4085



# Membership News



The "Roman Coin Project," whereby participants "earn" quality ancient coins, has been renamed for its founder, ANA Life Member David R. Cervin (left). With the generous help of ancient coin expert Harlan J. Berk (right), the educational program will be administered directly by the Association.

president of the Professional Numismatists Guild (PNG) and a fellow of the American Numismatic Society.

To earn ancient coins, program participants must first complete requirements in six basic categories. The first three include making a numismatic presentation to a school, coin club or Scout organization; producing an exhibit for a coin show, school, bank or library; writing a numismatic article for a local, state, regional or national club publication; holding office in an ANA member organization; volunteering at a coin show; and/or earning a Scout badge, club award or other special recognition for numismatics.

For their efforts, participants will receive:

- An antoninianus (double denarius) from the Gallo-Roman Empire during the reign of M. Piavvoni Victorinus (A.D. 268-270), who ruled the breakaway empire of Gaul and, briefly, Spain and Great Britain.

- A silver denarius issued during the rule of Septimius Severus (A.D. 193-211), who held important posts under Emperor Marcus Aurelius before assuming supreme control of the Roman Empire.

- A square, silver coin issued between 321 and 181 B.C. in ancient India by the Mauryan Empire, which was created after the death of Greek expansionist Alexander the Great.

In a "scholarship" category, project participants must complete an ANA Correspondence Course or Summer Seminar class. Successful students will receive an antoninianus issued during the reign of Marcus Aurelius Probus (A.D. 276-282), who rose to distinction in the armies of Roman Emperors Valerian, Claudius and Aurelian.

In the advanced categories of the program, students can receive four coins after recruiting five new ANA members or completing another ANA Correspondence or Summer

Seminar course; repeating either of the previous activities; publishing an article in an ANA-member regional or national club publication; and exhibiting the first seven coins they received in the project at a local, regional or national coin show.

Participants in the advanced program will receive:

- A Greek bronze coin featuring a figure of the epic poet Homer, issued in the 2nd and 1st centuries B.C. in Ionia, on the west coast of modern-day Turkey.
- A Greek bronze piece issued between 300 and 200 B.C. in Arpi, a city settled by the Greeks in south-east Italy.
- A silver tetradrachm issued under King Gotarzes II (A.D. 40-51) in the Parthian Empire, which was created in what is now Iran after becoming a great enemy of Rome.
- A silver stater—famous for its depiction of two wrestlers—issued

## DONATIONS

*Contributions for October 2000*

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# Membership News

between 400 and 300 B.C. in the Pamphylian city of Aspendus, now southwest Turkey.

For more information about the ANA's David R. Cervin Ancient Coin Project, contact the Education Department. Harlan Berk can be contacted at 31 North Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60602; telephone 312/609-0016; fax 312/609-1309; or E-mail [info@harlanjberk.com](mailto:info@harlanjberk.com).

## Campbell Names Four Presidential Award Recipients in November

To recognize their support and promotion of the hobby, H. Robert Campbell presented ANA Presidential Awards to four numismatists

during the month of November. Receiving the honor on November 4 at the California State Numismatic Society Educational Symposium was Donald H. Kagin. A dealer based in Tiburon, California, Kagin is an expert in territorial gold issues and often shares the excitement of the gold-rush era by portraying the "Oldest Living Pioneer" at numismatic events.

At the 43rd Annual Coin-a-Rama held by the Sacramento Valley Coin Club on November 4-5, Campbell presented the award to Lee H. Gong of Santa Rosa. An active California numismatist, Gong also has received the ANA Outstanding Adult Advisor Award for developing and assisting with YN activities.

On November 10, at the 37th Annual Hawaii State Numismatic Association Convention in Honolulu, Campbell bestowed the honor on Marion F. Kendrick of Aiea, Hawaii, and James A. Simek of Westchester, Illinois. For a number of years, Kendrick has served as bourse chairman of the HSNA's successful shows. Secretary of the Professional Currency Dealers Association, Simek has won the ANA's Heath and Wayte and Olga Raymond Literary Awards.

## Patrons Sought for Atlanta Convention

To help offset the cost of special events at the ANA's 110th Anniversary Convention at the Cobb Galleria



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# Membership News

Centre in Atlanta, Georgia, August 8-12, individuals, clubs and other organizations are asked to pledge their monetary support as convention patrons. Five donation categories have been established: Platinum (\$500+), Gold (\$250+), Silver (\$100+), Nickel (\$50+) and Copper (\$25+). The name, city and state of all patrons will be listed in the official convention program.

Send patron checks, made payable to "ANA 110th Anniversary Convention," to the ANA Convention Department. Payment by Mastercard, Visa, American Express and Discover credit cards can be made by mail or fax (719/634-4085). Please include the account number, expiration date and cardholder's signature.

## ★ Call for Nominations ★

### ANA BOARD OF GOVERNORS—2001-03

ANA members with voting privileges are invited to submit nominations in writing to the Executive Director. Nominations must be postmarked or hand-delivered no earlier than December 1, 2000, and no later than March 31, 2001.

#### To obtain nomination forms and guidelines, contact

ANA Executive Offices  
818 North Cascade Avenue  
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# Membership News

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*Calendar listings are published as a service to member clubs of the American Numismatic Association. Entries must be received at least eight weeks prior to the cover date of the magazine and preferably as much as four months in advance so announcements can appear in several consecutive issues. Type or print information and send to Calendar of Events, 818 North Cascade Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80903-3279; fax 719/634-4085; E-mail [anaedi@money.org](mailto:anaedi@money.org). Receipt of show notices is acknowledged by mail; if you do not receive confirmation of your listing, contact the Publications Department.*

### EAST

#### JANUARY

7 ALBANY, NY. Polish Community Center, Washington Ave. Extension. Capital District Coin Dealers Association Coin Show. Chairman J.F. Marcelli, 28 Locust Ave., Troy, NY 12180; telephone 518/274-4216.

#### FEBRUARY

3-4 PITTSBURGH, PA. Holiday Inn-Pittsburgh South, 164 Ft. Couch Rd. (across from South Hills Village). South Hills Coin Club 41st Annual Coin & Stamp Show. SHCC, P.O. Box 2665, Pittsburgh, PA 15230-2665.

4 ALBANY, NY. Polish Community Center, Washington Ave. Extension. Capital District Coin Dealers Association Coin Show. Chairman J.F. Marcelli, 28 Locust Ave., Troy, NY 12180; telephone 518/274-4216.

10-11 STATE COLLEGE, PA. Days Inn-Penn State, 240 S. Pugh St. Centre Coin Club Annual Coin Show. Thomas

### ANA EVENTS

**March 5-7** SALT LAKE CITY, UT. Salt Lake City Marriott Hotel, 75 S.W. Temple. "How to Grade U.S. Coins" ANA Seminar. Contact Education Department.

**March 8-10** SALT LAKE CITY, UT. Salt Palace Convention Center, 100 S.W. Temple. ANA National Money Show™. Contact Convention Department.

**April 15-21** 78th Annual National Coin Week. Theme: "Faces of Time." Contact Education Department.

**June 30-July 6 and July 7-13** COLORADO SPRINGS, CO. The Colorado College. 33rd Annual ANA Summer Seminar (two, week-long sessions). Contact Education Department.

**August 4-6** ATLANTA, GA. Cobb Galleria Centre, Two Galleria Pkwy. "How to Grade U.S. Coins" ANA Seminar. Contact Education Department.

**August 7** ATLANTA, GA. Cobb Galleria Centre, Two Galleria Pkwy. "Detection of Counterfeit Gold Coins." ANA Seminar. Contact Education Department.

**August 8-12** ATLANTA, GA. Cobb Galleria Centre, Two Galleria Pkwy. ANA 110th Anniversary Convention. Contact Convention Department.

### NATIONAL/REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS & EVENTS

**January 4-7** ORLANDO, FL. Orange County Convention Center/Civic Center, 9800 International Dr. Florida United Numismatists Convention. Cindy Grellman, P.O. Box 951988, Lake Mary, FL 32795; telephone 407/321-8747.

**March 17-18** BILOXI, MS. President Casino Broadwater Resort, 2110 W. Beach Blvd. Mississippi Numismatic Association 40th Annual State Convention & Coin Show. MNA, P.O. Box 951, Meridian, MS 39302; Louis Villalpando; telephone 228/388-0881; or Blake Rouleau; telephone 601/626-8805, E-mail [brulo99@yahoo.com](mailto:brulo99@yahoo.com).

Daubert, 378 Bradley Ave., State College, PA 16801; telephone 814/238-0467.

11 SALISBURY, MD. Wicomico Civic Center, 500 Glen Ave. 37th Annual Salisbury Coin Club Show & Sale. Bourse Chairman John Haddaway, c/o Island Coins, P.O. Box 256, Tilghman, MD 21671; telephone 800/277-7754.

### MARCH

3 MASSAPEQUA, NY. Elks Lodge #2162, 2162 Veterans Blvd. Semi-Annual Coin Show & Sale co-hosted by the Massapequa Coin Club & The Currency Club of Long Island. MCC, P.O. Box 56, Massapequa Park, NY 11762.

3-4 HAGERSTOWN, MD. Venice Motel Ballroom, Dual Hwy. (E. on U.S. Rt. 40). Interstate Club Coin Show. Chairman R.K. Brechbiel, P.O. Box

1901, Hagerstown, MD 21742; telephone 301/739-5414.

4 ALBANY, NY. Polish Community Center, Washington Ave. Extension. Capital District Coin Dealers Association Coin Show. Chairman J.F. Marcelli, 28 Locust Ave., Troy, NY 12180; telephone 518/274-4216.

10-11 INDIANA, PA. Best Western University Inn, 1545 Wayne Ave. (Rt. 119 S.). 43rd Annual Spring Coin Show held by the Indiana Coin Club. John F. Busovicki, 510 Walcott St., Clymer, PA 15728-1427; telephone 724/254-2471.

11 WILLIMANTIC, CT. Prospect Street School Gymnasium/Auditorium, 233 Prospect St. @ High St. 28th Annual Coin & Paper Money Show sponsored by the Mansfield Numismatic Society. C. John Ferreri, P.O. Box 33, Storrs, CT



# Membership News

06268; telephone 860/456-2442; E-mail [Johnnybanknote@webTV.net](mailto:Johnnybanknote@webTV.net).

## SOUTH

### JANUARY

27-28 VERO BEACH, FL. Community Center, 14th Ave. & 23rd St. 37th Annual Coin & Stamp Show sponsored by the Treasure Coast Coin Club. TCCC, P.O. Box 3373, Ft. Pierce, FL 34948; telephone 800/264-4765; E-mail [rrross@prodigy.net](mailto:rrross@prodigy.net).

### FEBRUARY

2-4 OCALA, FL. Ocala Shriners Hall, 4301 S.E. Maricamp Rd. Ocala Coin Club Annual Coin Show. Chairman C.L. Wyatt, 140 1/2 I.S.B.W., Daytona Beach,

FL 32114; telephone 904/290-5625.

3-4 VICKSBURG, MS. Battlefield Inn, 4137 I-20 Frontage Rd. (Exit 4B). Vicksburg Coin Club 62nd Semi-Annual Vicksburg Coin Show. Cason Schaffer, 107 East View Dr., Vicksburg, MS 39183-8105; telephone 601/638-1195.

10-11 DUNCAN, OK. Fairgrounds Bldg., 1618 S. 13th (E. of Halliburton on Hwy. 81S.). Stephens County Coin Club 32nd Annual Coin Show. SCCC, Box 635, Duncan, OK 73534-0635; telephone Stan, 580/255-3400.

16-18 EL PASO, TX. Vista Del Sol Conference Center, 11189 Rojas Dr. International Coin Club of El Paso 38th Annual Coin Show. John Grost, 619 E. Crosby Ave., El Paso, TX 79902; telephone 915/533-6001; fax 915/533-6077.

23-25 MEMPHIS, TN. Memphis Fairgrounds, Creative Arts Bldg. Memphis Coin Club Coin Show. Ray W. Brown, P.O. Box 40572, Memphis, TN 38174-0572; telephone 901/321-3408.

### MARCH

3-4 FT. WALTON BEACH, FL. Westwood Retirement Resort, 1001 Mar Walt Dr. Fort Walton Beach Coin Club Semi-Annual Coin Show. Dave Paren-teau, 2445 Elkhart Dr., Navarre, FL 32566; telephone 850/936-4892.

24-25 WEST PALM BEACH, FL. Knights of Columbus Hall, 1155 S. Congress Ave. Palm Beach Coin Club Coin Show. Chairman Tony Swicer, P.O. Box 5823, Lake Worth, FL 33466; telephone 561/964-8180 (9-5, weekdays).

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# Membership News

**31-APRIL 1 METAIRIE, LA.** Quality Hotel, 2261 N. Causeway Blvd. Crescent City Coin Club Coinival XXXIX. Bourse Chairman Bob Eddy, 4120 Ithaca St., Metairie, LA 70002; telephone 504/455-7078.

## CENTRAL

### JANUARY

**21 SOUTHGATE, MI.** Southgate Civic Center Annex, 14700 Reaume Pkwy. (off Dix). Lincoln Coin Club Annual Coin & Collectible Show. Bill Summerell, P.O. Box 777, Trenton, MI 48183; telephone 734/283-0982.

**27-28 FARGO, ND.** Doublewood Inn, 3333 13th Ave. S. Red River Valley Coin Club 40th Annual Coin & Stamp Show. RRVCC, 1318 12th St. N., Fargo, ND 58102.

**28 MUNCIE, IN.** Muncie Horizon Convention Center, 401 S. High St. 44th Annual Coin Show held by the Muncie Coin & Stamp Club. Show Chairman Ray Saylor, c/o MCSC, P.O. Box 1184, Muncie, IN 47305.

### FEBRUARY

**4 BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI.** Masonic Temple, 357 Woodward Ave. Annual Coin Show sponsored by the Birmingham-Bloomfield Coin Club. Bourse Chairman John L. Frank, 725 S. Adams, Suite 21, Birmingham, MI 48009; telephone 248/644-8818.

**4 ROCKFORD, IL.** Holiday Inn/Hoffman House, 7550 E. State St. (Bus. Rt. 20). Rockford Area Coin Club 89th Semi-Annual Coin Show. Bourse Chairman Larry Kasberger, 2419 Circle Dr., Belvidere, IL 61008.

**10-11 FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS, IL.** Ramada Inn, I-64 & St. Rt. 159. Dupo

Coin Club 44th Annual Dupo Coin Show. President Lucy Niccum, P.O. Box 3153, Fairview Heights, IL 62208; telephone 618/632-3331.

**11 ROCHESTER, MN.** Radisson Plaza Hotel, 150 S. Broadway. Rochester Coin Club Annual Southern Minnesota Winter Coin & Currency Show. Jerry Swanson, P.O. Box 565, Rochester, MN 55903; telephone 507/289-5099.

**16-18 ST. LOUIS, MO.** Hilton-St. Louis Airport, 10330 Natural Bridge Rd. St. Louis Numismatic Association 37th Annual Greater America Coin Fair. Mike Orlando, P.O. Box 1102, St. Louis, MO 63074.

**18 LAFAYETTE, IN.** Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds, 1401 Teal Rd. Lafayette Numismatic Society Coin Show. Mark France, P.O. Box 851, Lafayette, IN 47902.

**24-25 WINTERSVILLE, OH.** St. Florian Hall, 286 Luray Dr. (behind Fire Dept.). Ohio Valley Coin Association 52nd Coin Show. Bourse Chairman Terry Jones, 726 N. 3rd St., Toronto, OH 43964; telephone 740/537-4798.

**25 FRANKSVILLE, WI.** South Hills Country Club, 3047 Hwy. 94 Frontage Rd. (E. of I-94, between Hwys. K & 20). Racine Numismatic Society 63rd Annual Coin & Collectible Show. Bourse Chairman Jerome F. Binsfeld, Box 580191, Pleasant Prairie, WI 53158; telephone 262/843-2321 or 262/654-6272.

### MARCH

**2-4 STRONGSVILLE, OH.** Michaud's Expo Center, 16808 Pearl Rd. Warrensville Heights Coin Club 40th Annual Coin Show. WHCC, P.O. Box 391441, Solon, OH 44139; or Bourse Chairman Bill Krizan; telephone 440/248-4722.

**11 CEDAR RAPIDS, IA.** Sheraton

Four Points Hotel, 525 33rd Ave. S.W. Cedar Rapids Coin Club Annual Coin Show. Bourse Chairman Nevin Roberts, 3065 19th Ave., Marion, IA 52302; telephone 319/377-6974.

**11 COLLINSVILLE, IL.** American Legion, 1022 Vandalia (Hwy. 159). St. Clair Numismatic Society Coin Show. SCNS, 1121 E. Main St., Belleville, IL 62220; telephone 618/277-4493; E-mail [kicklighter.johnny@mcleodusa.net](mailto:kicklighter.johnny@mcleodusa.net).

**18 WAUKESHA, WI.** Waukesha Elks Lodge, 2301 Springdale Dr. (I-94, Hwy. 18 Exit, W. to Springdale, right 2 blocks). Waukesha Coin Club 32nd Annual Coin Show. WCC, 1912 Laura Ln., Waukesha, WI 53186.

**25 FOSTORIA, OH.** St. Wendelin High School Gym, 533 N. Countyline St. Fostoria Coin Club Annual Coin Show. Phillip Warrington, 104 S. State Route 587, Fostoria, OH 44830; telephone 419/435-7135.

**25 MARION, IN.** Grant County 4-H Fairgrounds, State Hwy. 18 E. Marion Coin Club 43rd Annual Coin Show. Ray Lockwood, P.O. Box 93, Marion, IN 46952-0093; telephone 765/664-6520; E-mail [sunray@comteck.com](mailto:sunray@comteck.com).

**25 SPRINGFIELD, IL.** Northfield Center I, 3210 Northfield Dr. (@Dirksen Pkwy.). Central Illinois Numismatic Association Annual Spring Coin Show. Steve Butler, 1712 S. First St., Springfield, IL 62704; telephone 217/528-7634.

## WEST

### JANUARY

**14 SCOTTSDALE, AZ.** Elks Lodge, 6398 E. Oak St. Coin, Stamp, Post Card, Sports Card & Collectible Show held by the Camelback Collectibles Club. Bob Phelan, P.O. Box 15005, Phoenix,



# Membership News

AZ 85060; telephone 480/990-1007.

**27** OLYMPIA, WA. VFW Hall, 2902½ Martin Way. Coin Show conducted by the Olympia Coin Club Coin Show. Joe Schaffer, P.O. Box 2773, Olympia, WA 98507; telephone 360/352-9218.

## FEBRUARY

**11** SCOTTSDALE, AZ. Elks Lodge, 6398 E. Oak St. Coin, Stamp, Post Card, Sports Card & Collectible Show held by the Camelback Collectibles Club. Bob Phelan, P.O. Box 15005, Phoenix, AZ 85060; telephone 480/990-1007.

**17-18** GRAND RONDE, OR. Spirit Mountain Casino, Hwy. 18. Coin & Stamp Show sponsored by the McMinnville Coin Club. Denny Magden, P.O. Box 74, McMinnville, OR 97128.

**17-18** POST FALLS, ID. Coeur d'Alene Greyhound Park, 5100 Riverbend Ave. (I-90, Exit 2). 40th Annual Coin, Stamp & Card Show held by the Coeur d'Alene Coin Club. Robert Mertens, 501 W. Appleway, Suite F, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814; telephone 208/664-1004.

## MARCH

**10-11** TACOMA, WA. LaQuinta Inn, I-5 & Portland Ave. Semi-Annual Coin Show conducted by the Tacoma-Lakewood Coin Club. Loren Lawrence, P.O. Box 11192, Tacoma, WA 98411; telephone 253/582-1762.

**11** SCOTTSDALE, AZ. Elks Lodge, 6398 E. Oak St. Coin, Stamp, Post Card, Sports Card & Collectible Show

held by the Camelback Collectibles Club. Bob Phelan, P.O. Box 15005, Phoenix, AZ 85060; telephone 480/990-1007.

**23-25** TUCSON, AZ. Tucson Convention Center, 260 S. Church Ave. Tucson Coin Club 37th Annual Tucson Rare Coin Show. Chairman Tony Tumonis, P.O. Box 17021, Tucson, AZ 85731; telephone 520/744-9856.

## — SWITZERLAND —

### FEBRUARY

**2-4** BASEL. Convention Centre/Messe Basel, Messeplatz 21. 30th International Coin Convention held by World Money Fair. World Money Fair AG, Blotzheimerstr. 40, 4055 Basel, Switzerland; E-mail [wmf\\_worldmoneyfair@magnet.ch](mailto:wmf_worldmoneyfair@magnet.ch).

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### REQUEST FOR LISTING IN *THE NUMISMATIST*

"Calendar of Events," published monthly in *The Numismatist*, is a free service reserved for ANA member clubs and organizations. Entries must be received by the Publications Department at **least eight weeks** prior to the cover date of the magazine, and preferably as much as **four months** in advance so announcements can appear in several consecutive issues.

**Send completed form to:**

***The Numismatist*, Calendar of Events, 818 North Cascade Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80903-3279  
Fax 719/634-4085**

Sponsoring organization(s) \_\_\_\_\_ ANA # \_\_\_\_\_

Name of show \_\_\_\_\_

Check one: \_\_\_\_\_ local show \_\_\_\_\_ regional show \_\_\_\_\_ national show

Show date(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Show location \_\_\_\_\_

Street (or other directions) \_\_\_\_\_

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Chairman or other person to be contacted for more show information (*print exactly as you wish it to appear in the calendar*):

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# Membership News

## CLUB NEWS

Preparations are under way for the **Texas Numismatic Association's** (TNA) 43rd annual convention, to be held in Ft. Worth on May 10-13 at the Amon Carter Center in the Will Rogers Complex. Bourse space, which comprises 25,000 square feet, will accommodate 165 tables for dealers, available on a first-come, first-served basis.

To apply for bourse space or obtain information about hotel reservations, contact TNA Bourse Co-Chairmen David and Ginger Pike, P.O. Box 261748, Plano, TX 75026-1728; telephone 972/964-

5520; or E-mail [Lrciplano@aol.com](mailto:Lrciplano@aol.com).

The **Solano Silver Round Club** (SSRC) is accepting orders for its newest commemorative honoring California's sesquicentennial of statehood. The round is 1 ounce of .999 fine silver, with a mintage equal to the total number of prepaid orders received. The rounds are not serial numbered, and only silver issues will be minted.

The obverse design features the SSRC's logo depicting Chief Solano, a California Indian for whom Solano County is named. The reverse portrays the front portico of the State Capitol in Sacramento.

The rounds are priced at \$20 each, plus \$3 postage. Orders must be prepaid and postmarked by Feb-

ruary 1, 2001. To place an order or obtain more information about the club's activities, contact Medals Coordinator Stan Turrini at P.O. Box 4104, Vallejo, CA 94590-0410; telephone 707/453-6277; or E-mail [stanyrbk@vusd.solanocoe.K12.ca.us](mailto:stanyrbk@vusd.solanocoe.K12.ca.us).

Edwin V. Quagliana of Malvern, Pennsylvania, has been named the "Outstanding Numismatist in Central Pennsylvania" by the **Red Rose Coin Club** in Lancaster. Quagliana, who was nominated for the award by the **West Chester Coin Club**, is active in nine local, regional and national clubs. He has produced weekly columns for *Coin World* and *Suburban & Wayne Times*, and currently writes a weekly coin and stamp column for the *West Chester*

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# Membership News

## Daily News.

Quagliana also is a recipient of the Numismatic Literary Guild's Maurice Gould Award, the ANA's Outstanding Adult Advisor award, and "Numismatist of the Year" recognitions from the Middle Atlantic Numismatic Association and Great Eastern Numismatic Association. Contact the Red Rose Coin Club at P.O. Box 621, Lancaster, PA 17608.

In celebration of its golden anniversary, Canada's **Calgary Numismatic Society** has released a new book titled *History of the Calgary Numismatic Society, 1950-2000*, co-authored by Neil Probert and Ian Hunter. The 126-page history contains more than 290 photographs and images chronicling the club's

events and activities during the last half-century, including details on awards received from the Canadian Numismatic Association, American Numismatic Association and Royal Canadian Mint.

Only 50 copies of the book have been printed; the cost is \$20 each, postpaid. To place an order, write to the Calgary Numismatic Society, P.O. Box 633, Calgary, Alberta T2P 2J3, Canada.

The **Missouri Numismatic Society** (MNS) also is offering an illustrated book, *Biblical Related Coins*, which provides information on the numismatics of biblical times. Proceeds from the sale of the book (priced at \$25) will help support the club's educational activities. For

more information, write to Bill Vaughn, MNS Corresponding Secretary, P.O. Box 410652, St. Louis, MO 63141-0652.

As an incentive to get top grades in school, junior members of the **Pasadena (Texas) Coin Club** receive coins for each "A" on their report cards. The purpose of the Pasadena Coin Club's "Coins for As" program is to reward its young members for earning high marks in school, while encouraging and fostering interest in numismatics. Generous club sponsors donate the many coins awarded through the program.

To learn more about the Pasadena Coin Club's Young Numismatist program, write to P.O. Box 58155, Houston, TX 77258-8155.

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# Membership News

## MEMBERSHIP • REPORT •

*The following applications for membership, representing membership numbers 194081 through 194516 and life members 5374 through 5395 were received before November 21, 2000. Unless accompanied by one of the following codes—A (Associate), J (Junior), JA (Junior Associate), D (Student), LM (Life Member) or CLM (Converted to Life Member)—all applications are for Regular Membership. Absence of a state beading indicates that no applications were received from that state. If within 30 days of this publication no written objections are received regarding the following individuals or clubs, their membership shall remain in effect and they shall have the right to vote.*

### PROPOSERS

Gary Adkins (1), H. Robert Campbell (2), Bob Estremera (1), Jeffrey C. Fretz (1), Gregory C. Friel (1), Stephen J. Gehringer (1), M.P. Hagerty (1), James L. Halperin (3), Steve Ivy (3), J. Warren Long (1), V.R. Marshall III (2), George F. Miller (1), Clifford Mishler (1), Walter A. Ostromek Jr. (1), Mark Scott (1), Michael M. Stanley (1), Gar Travis (2), John W. Wilson (5), Rich Zemszal (1)

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James Newsom, Joe Waters

### ALASKA

Jim Ayers

### ARIZONA

Jesse J. Adams, Harry Andrew, Richard Wayne Fulkerson, Phil Hoffman, Katy Lingenfelter, Forest Smith, Bert L. Summer, Steven R. White

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Elizabeth MacKilligan, Michael Stephan Markle (J), Kevin McCamy, Jeanne Mikulics, Gabriel Mohnen, Matthew Molus, Leonard Montalvo, Jack Michael Naify, John Nesler (J), Steve Owen, Stephen Park, Richard T. Peters (J), Walter F. Popiela Jr., Henry Porper, Charles W. Rayner, Robert Richardson, Paul Richeda, John Rohloff, Roger Russell, Regan G. Shea (CLM), Daniel D. Shimbroun, Michael K. Steely, Kenneth Takahashi, Henry Tileston

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### DELAWARE

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Craig Bullers, William W. Hancock, Theodore S. Hatfield, J. Hochstetler, Military Numismatists (8103 E. U.S. Hwy. 36, Ste. 163, Avon, IN 46123); Martin J. Moore, Jimmie Redeford

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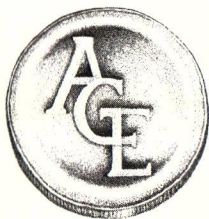
## OBITUARIES

### EUGENE B. SHELTON—LM 1996

Eugene B. "Gene" Shelton of Excelsior Springs, Missouri, died at his home on November 21, 2000. He was 83 years old.

A dedicated collector, Shelton was a life member of the American Numismatic Association since 1976 and also belonged to the Central States Numismatic Society. He served in the United States Navy during World War II and was a retired engineer and building inspector for the U.S. Civil Service Commission.

Shelton is survived by one daughter, Peggy Ann Lyon of Baltimore,



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# Membership News

Maryland; one granddaughter; one niece and several cousins.

- K 185964 **Bernard Arendt**, Green Bay, WI (joined 7-99)  
 R 168448 **Michael J. Atwood Sr.**, Cañon City, CO (joined 10-95)  
 R 181793 **Walter R. Baier**, Ft. Wayne, IN (joined 9-98)  
 K 74825 **Folmer Christensen**, Manteno, IL (joined 1-73)  
 K 190272 **Ken Kapinus**, Texarkana, TX (joined 4-00)  
 K 171197 **Edwin Kaucher**, Reading, PA (joined 5-96)  
 K 155878 **John W. Miller**, Devine, TX (joined 9-91)  
 K 121865 **Sidney B. Motel**, Port St. Lucie, FL (joined 9-83)  
 R 161333 **Roger E. Thurston**, Thetford Center, VT (joined 8-93)

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- OUTSTANDING REGIONAL COORDINATOR, DISTRICT DELEGATE AND CLUB REPRESENTATIVE
- OUTSTANDING ADULT ADVISOR • OUTSTANDING YOUNG NUMISMATIST

The ANA is seeking nominations for annual awards to be presented at the 110th Anniversary Convention in Atlanta, August 8-12, 2001.

All nominations **must** include date of submission, and name, birthdate (if possible) and background of nominee (such as awards, support of the hobby, etc.). Send nominations to ANA Awards Committee, 818 North Cascade Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80903-3279, fax 719/634-4085 or E-mail [ana@money.org](mailto:ana@money.org). Deadline for receipt of nominations is January 19, 2001.

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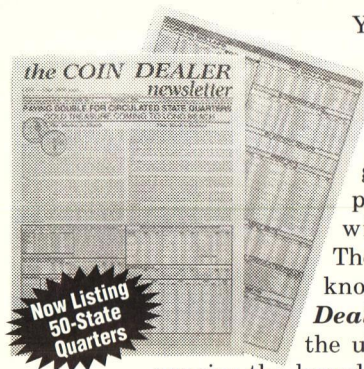
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| Florin       | 100     | 140     | 225     |
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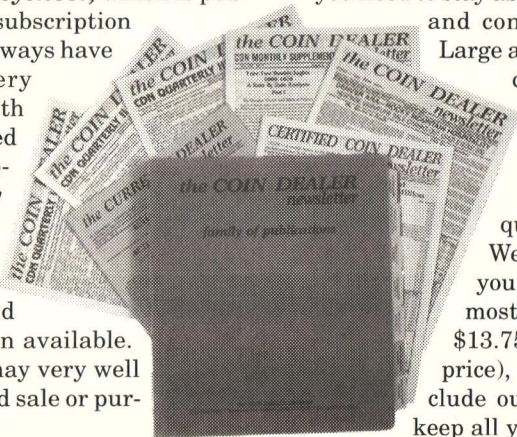


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## Silver and Nickel 3-Cent Pieces

*continued from page 38*

considerable demand, a fact reflected in their prices.

In 1859 Mint Director James Ross Snowden apparently instigated a program to redesign America's coins. Longacre modified the silver 3-cent piece, revising the design to ensure a fuller strike. According to Breen, Longacre made these changes with the assistance of Anthony Paquet, designer of the rare 1861 double eagle reverse. The changes resulted in the third and final variety of silver 3 cents (1859-73). Type 3 specimens are of the same weight and silver content as Type 2 pieces, but the star has only two outlines, and the letters and numbers are narrower and spaced farther apart. (The date punches used on the 1860-63 silver 3-cent pieces and gold dollars are the smallest ever employed for United States coins).

By this time, the popularity of the 3-cent issues had sunk tremendously. According to Breen, they had come to be known as "fish scales" because of their size, thickness and tendency to discolor. From 1862 on, mintage figures plummeted. The series was done away with by the Congressional Act of February 12, 1873, the same legislation that caused the demise of the 2-cent piece and half dime.

The majority of extant, Type 3 examples minted after 1862 are proofs or impaired proofs. (Indeed, Breen stated in 1958 that he had never seen a business strike dated 1863.) In many cases, circulated specimens are considerably scarcer than proof specimens, though this generally is not reflected in their prices. Building a set of uncirculated, business-strike, Type 3 issues is a

considerable task that would take years to accomplish. The vast majority of post-1862 pieces struck for circulation never were released and eventually were melted by the Mint.

Nevertheless, the series is not especially expensive. While a collector may spend years searching for a sharply struck specimen of a certain date, when the hunt is over, he is likely to find that the price paid for the coin relates little to its rarity. The rare, late business strikes normally cost less than proofs, despite being far less common.

This situation is nothing new. Even when the coins were circulating, some issues were scarce. A catalog for an Edward Cogan auction held on June 9-11, 1873, lists an 1863 silver 3-cent piece (Lot 1076) as "uncirculated and very rare." (Note that this is the same coin Breen mentioned being unable to find in 1958.) The next lot was a proof 1864 piece, not as scarce as surviving, uncirculated 1863 business strikes. However, the uncirculated 1863 brought 70 cents, and the proof 1864 sold for \$1.30. Examples appearing in the catalogs of Masamore, Sampson, Haseltine and other 19th-century dealers show similar trends. Although the coins obviously command considerably higher prices today, proofs generally are more expensive than the elusive specimens made for circulation.

### The 3-Cent "Nickels"

AS NOTED, BY 1865 the Mint was manufacturing silver 3-cent pieces on a very small scale; only 8,500 (including proofs) were minted that year. However, there still was a very real need for circulating small change. The public was increasingly dissatisfied with the 3-cent fractional currency notes then in use, for they

quickly became torn, limp rags. Silver coinage was in short supply during the Civil War because of hoarding. The government reacted to the silver crisis by suspending specie payments, a move that only worsened the situation. Authorities wanted to see if the public would accept a 3-cent piece struck in base metal, and on March 3, 1865, Congress passed the necessary legislation. Later that year, the "3-cent nickel" rolled off the presses.

A recent book by Kevin Flynn and Edward Fletcher, *The Authoritative Reference on Three Cent Nickels*, examines the origin of the coin in considerable detail, noting a variety of other factors that led to its creation. In particular, the authors discuss the political and financial machinations of Joseph Wharton, who owned and operated a nickel mine and who, conveniently, had many powerful friends in Congress. In 1864 he published a plan to revise the coinage then being produced. Not surprisingly, he called for extensive use of a copper-nickel alloy and proposed changes for all minor denominations.

Designed by Longacre, the nickel 3-cent piece features a classic portrayal of Liberty on the obverse, with the Roman numeral "III" surrounded by a wreath on the reverse. (The wreath is essentially the same as that on Longacre's 1859 Indian Head cent.) The coin measures 17.9mm in diameter, weighs 1.94 grams and is composed of 75-percent copper/25-percent nickel. Unlike its silver sister, the nickel 3 cents maintained its design and specifications throughout its 25-year life.

As with its predecessor, the government had great hopes for the success of the nickel 3-cent piece. The first year saw more than 11.3 million minted, but the next year only



4.8 million were coined, followed by 3.9 million in 1867, 3.2 million in 1868 and 1.6 million in 1869. Mintage figures declined nearly every year, except for 1881, when more than a million were produced. More typical was the mintage of 162,000 in 1876; in 1877, 1878 and 1886, the coin was struck in proof form only. The series came to an end with the Congressional Act of September 25, 1890, with 1889 being the last year of issue. (The legislation also spelled the end of the \$1 and \$3 gold pieces.)

Thus, many nickel 3-cent pieces are downright rare, but, like the silver versions, are surprisingly affordable. For instance, take the 1884 issue, one of the scarcest and most expensive. In that year, only 5,642 were coined: 3,942 proofs and 1,700

business strikes. Yet, R.S. Yeoman's *Guide Book of United States Coins* (the "Red Book") lists Mint State-60 specimens at only a bit over \$500. Imagine if the 1884 Morgan dollar had such a mintage! It would be a major rarity and cost a fortune in uncirculated condition.

As is evident from 1884 mintage figures cited above, uncirculated nickel 3-cent pieces sometimes are less abundant than proof issues. Breen states that the coins of 1879-80 and 1882-87 fall into this category, creating the ironic situation of unscrupulous dealers and hoaxers claiming that the coins they are selling are *not* proofs! Generally, however, proofs command higher prices than business strikes, relative rarity notwithstanding.

Unfortunately, one other similar-

ity the nickel issue shares with the silver series is the fact that most specimens, particularly those struck in 1865-76, are weakly struck. This is most evident in the thin, vertical lines that make up the "III" on the reverse. While uncirculated specimens from these years are not especially expensive, it is difficult to find examples with full strikes. Author Q. David Bowers explains that this is due largely to the design: because the face of Liberty on the obverse was directly opposite the "III" on the reverse, the planchet metal could not adequately fill both dies.

The fact that nickel is a very hard metal complicated matters. The dies wore out quickly and had to be replaced, lapped (machined and polished) or retooled. This resulted in a number of odd die varieties and

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interesting die cracks for today's specialists to enjoy. For example, the 1865 issue has not one, but four double-die obverse varieties. The famous 1887/6 proof overdate is well known and listed in standard price guides, but it is only one of several overdates in the series.

Although the nickel 3-cent piece hung on tenaciously until 1889, it never had a fighting chance. When it was introduced in 1865, the silver 3 cents already had fallen out of favor, partly because of its odd denomination. The Mint could not solve that problem merely by changing the metal content. In 1866, the nickel 5-cent piece was released and quickly accepted by the public, remaining a staple of everyday transactions. The 5-cent issue was a convenient size and corresponded to America's decimal monetary system, none of which could be said for the 3-cent piece, whatever its composition. Most nickel 3-cent issues of 1888-89 were melted, and in the ensuing years millions of every date were sent back to the Mint to make the 5-cent coins of the early 1890s.

The silver and nickel 3-cent issues are interesting for all the reasons

people collect coins: they provide a tangible link to history; are unusual and often rare; and are available in nice condition at prices most collectors can afford. These under-appreciated coins also tell a fascinating story about how the United States Mint responded to financial crises and political pressure. It has been said that coins tell a story, and the 3-cent issues are no exception. In many ways, their tale is just beginning to be told. •

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*David Fanning lives in Columbus, Ohio, where he is assistant editor of a scientific journal, MATERIALS EVALUATION, and is finishing his Ph.D. in English at Ohio State University. He is an avid collector of numismatic literature and a member of the Columbus Numismatic Society/Central Ohio International Numismatic Society.*

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# Grading Barber Half Dollars

**T**HE BARBER HALF dollar series is rather unique among older United States coins in that it contains no key dates, (i.e., rare and expensive coins). Consequently, the series is a good introduction to collecting vintage coins and provides an excellent opportunity to hone grading skills.

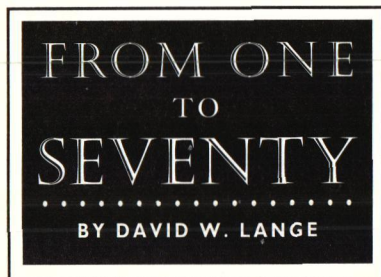
Coined annually from 1892 through 1915, the series was produced by the United States Mint in Philadelphia and branch facilities in San Francisco, New Orleans (through 1909) and Denver (beginning in 1906).

Overall, the Philadelphia and San Francisco pieces are well struck. When found in uncirculated condition, the S-Mint halves of the 1890s often appear prooflike because of their highly reflective fields, an attribute less common among later dates having the more conventional satiny or frosty luster associated with the products of other Mints.

New Orleans issues typically are weak in places, particularly where the eagle's left claw grasps the arrows and also at the arrow feathers. Other weak spots include the upper right portion of the shield and the adjacent wing feathers. These areas, directly opposite the highest points of relief on the coin's obverse, usually lacked sufficient metal displacement to completely fill both dies. While such weakness is typical of O-Mint Barber halves, it has been observed for all dates and mints in this series.

Another peculiarity of New Orleans Mint halves is a swelling on Liberty's neck, the result of either die damage or, more likely, improper die hardening. Referred to by

collectors as "mumps," this swelling frequently is seen on 1906-O, 1907-O and 1908-O halves.



Uncirculated Barber half dollars can be extraordinarily beautiful when well preserved, but most have experienced careless handling. The perceived aesthetic appeal of toning has changed over the years. Natural patina is prized by one generation, only to be reviled by the next. As a result, many Barber halves have been cleaned (with varying degrees of success) and may show hairline scratches or a loss of luster.



**This 1892-O Barber half dollar is part of a series coined annually from 1892 through 1915. Surviving coins are primarily in grades below Fine.**

How these coins are graded differs. Numismatic Guaranty Corporation (NGC) typically rejects coins that are obviously cleaned and downgrades those with light cleaning that is still acceptable in the coin market. Examining a number of certified Barber halves offers a feel for what is an acceptable appearance with regard to cleaning.

While type collectors want to acquire unworn Barber half dollars, most people collecting by date and mint must settle for circulated pieces. Barber halves predated the collecting of coins from circulation, which began in the mid 1930s. Though most of the specimens struck after 1900 still could be found in the '30s and for a few years afterward, the coins were by then quite heavily worn. Thus, surviving Barber halves are primarily in grades below Fine. In fact, grades of Fine and Very Fine are the most scarce and highly sought by collectors. Examples with natural or "original" surfaces always are in high demand.

Master hubs for the Barber half dollar were revised in 1901, resulting in subtle design differences that affected wear. A major consideration in the grading of circulated Barbers is the number of letters visible in LIBERTY. On coins struck from dies that were sunk from the new hubs (those dated 1901 and later), LIBERTY was not as well protected from wear. As such, it cannot be relied on as heavily when grading circulated examples. While the letters of LIBERTY continue to be a useful guide, one must concentrate more on the coin's overall wear to arrive at the correct grade.



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### ELECTROTYPES & CAST COUNTERFEITS

**T**HE INSTALLMENT OF *Counterfeit Coin Bulletin* takes a look at electrotypes and techniques of producing cast counterfeits. While electrotypes are not created using the casting method, they are considered more closely than the work of a craftsman or a skilled speculator.

**Electrotypes**  
This kind of counterfeit is produced by the electrolysis of a highly descriptive and precise as the original, as it is not possible to make a copy of a coin or medal. The process requires the pressing one side of a producing a thin layer of metal on the mold. The resulting metal is then removed and suspended in an electrolyte solution. The coin is then placed in the electrolyte solution and the process is repeated until the desired thickness of the coin is reached. The coin is then removed from the electrolyte solution and the process is repeated until the desired thickness of the coin is reached.

### 19TH CENTURY

#### Counterfeit 1907 High Relief \$20 "Oregon"

**Obverse:** Full facing figure of Liberty holding torch and olive branch. Inscribed: LIBERTY, 1907, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.  
**Reverse:** Eagle facing left, holding shield, with stars.  
**Comments:** This coin is a high relief counterfeit of the 1907 High Relief \$20 "Oregon" coin. It is a very poor quality counterfeit, with many errors in detail and design.



### ANCIENT

#### Counterfeit Lydian 1/2 Stater (c. 600 B.C.)

**Obverse:** Head of lion to right, mouth open, on a rectangular base.  
**Reverse:** Two winged griffins facing each other, on a rectangular base.  
**Comments:** This coin is a counterfeit of the Lydian 1/2 Stater (c. 600 B.C.) coin. It is a very poor quality counterfeit, with many errors in detail and design.



### 19TH CENTURY

#### Counterfeit 1842 Grossduchen 4 Franken

**Obverse:** Central figure of a woman, with stars.  
**Reverse:** Central figure of a man, with stars.  
**Comments:** This coin is a counterfeit of the 1842 Grossduchen 4 Franken coin. It is a very poor quality counterfeit, with many errors in detail and design.



### 20TH CENTURY

#### Counterfeit 1915-5 Panama-Pacific Exposition \$1

**Obverse:** Left facing profile of a man, with stars.  
**Reverse:** Central figure of a woman, with stars.  
**Comments:** This coin is a counterfeit of the 1915-5 Panama-Pacific Exposition \$1 coin. It is a very poor quality counterfeit, with many errors in detail and design.



### SPECIFICATIONS

|         | WEIGHT (gms) | DENSITY | DIAMETER (mm) | SPRUE |
|---------|--------------|---------|---------------|-------|
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# Proper Storage and Handling Paramount

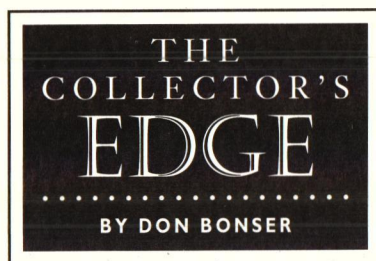
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**Q.** How should I store coins currently housed in 40 PVC album pages? Am I causing more problems by keeping them in a large, covered Rubbermaid™ container? Just what kind of damage should I look for?

—K.E., via Internet

**A.** It depends on how the coins are stored inside the PVC (polyvinyl

chloride) album pages. If the specimens are in cardboard, 2 x 2-inch, stapled holders or mylar flips that



have been inside the vinyl pages for a long time, I'd recommend replacing the holders and removing them from the albums.

I suggest placing the holders in a plastic or cardboard box made to store 100 pieces. You also can purchase metal storage boxes that will accommodate several hundred items. None of these methods is completely safe, but each is effective and relatively inexpensive for moderately priced, circulated coins. For more expensive specimens, lucite (acrylic) holders and encapsulations ("slabs") offered by grading services are more costly, but hard to beat.

I doubt you're compounding possible damage by using the additional container, unless it collects moisture. Its plastic is inert, and the storage method is convenient.



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PVC damage manifests itself as a green slime that slowly coats coin surfaces. It actually smells like vinyl, and can pass through a variety of substances (including cardboard and other plastics). If you already see PVC contamination, consult a qualified professional about cleaning.

**Q.** In February, I purchased 10 new Sacagawea dollars at Wal-Mart®, receiving seven from the cash register and three more from a roll. I put them in a coin tube, along with some Susan B. Anthony dollars. A month later, I transferred the Sacagawea dollar coins into a new tube. I couldn't believe my eyes. There were brown spots, smudges and fingerprints all over them. What happened? Can they be cleaned?

—R.W., Minnesota

**A.** I think your problem lies in the condition of the coins when you received them. The seven pieces in the cash register had no doubt been handled at least once already. Oil from your fingers can cause the coin's surface to oxidize (and form a "fingerprint") days, weeks, months or even years later. Spots and smudges often are caused by similar handling.

No method of cleaning will remove such oxidation from a coin's surface without damaging it. I recommend you purchase an unopened roll of Sacagawea dollars and place it in a suitably sized tube, touching the coins only by their edges, if at all. Then, just spend the damaged dollars, and let someone else worry about their spots.

If you would like to save a speci-

men that is likely to remain pristine for many years, I recommend encapsulation by one of the major grading services. This need not be extraordinarily expensive. You might also consider buying from a dealer who encapsulates quantities of such pieces; he may be able to pass along a portion of his volume-discount savings to you.

Readers are invited to send questions or observations regarding coin care, storage and preservation to me in care of *The Numismatist*, 818 North Cascade Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80903-3279; fax 719/634-4085 or E-mail [anaedi@money.org](mailto:anaedi@money.org). Please keep in mind that your questions or comments may be edited for length and clarity, and published here or elsewhere in this journal. •

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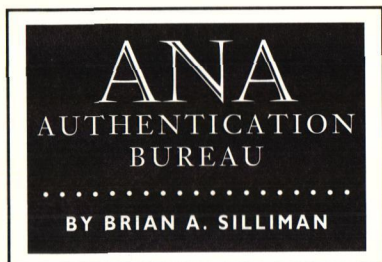
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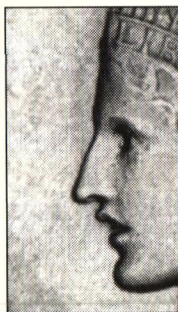
## Proper Lighting Helps Target Problem Coins

Virtually all numismatic publications feature discussions about coin cleaning, surface alterations, PVC contamination and other problems. Yet, with all the information available, and as savvy as collectors and dealers should be in spotting such problems, hardly a single day goes by that coins with significant difficulties are not submitted for evaluation to the ANA Authentication Bureau or ANA Museum Services. Indeed, some days as many as half the coins received by the ANA for certification by its official grading service, Numismatic Guaranty Corporation (NGC), have been cleaned or display significant surface contamination or alteration.

In most cases, collectors and professional numismatists alike missed these problems on their coins simply because they viewed the specimens under poor lighting conditions. Yes,



**When this 1897 dollar is viewed under incandescent light, eraser marks are evident on Liberty's face and neck.**



**A 1911 \$10 gold piece, when viewed under fluorescent light (left), appears to have attractive, original surfaces. When examined under incandescent light, the same piece reveals distracting hairlines (right).**



it can be that simple. The importance of proper lighting should not be underestimated.

For example, consider the 1897 Morgan dollar pictured below. Liberty's face and neck clearly exhibit marks created by an ordinary pencil eraser (rubbed on the coin's surface to camouflage distracting marks). They are easily overlooked under a fluorescent light, but are readily seen under a 75- to 100-watt, incandescent bulb.

Hairline scratches can be particularly hard to detect. Illustrated above are two 1911 \$10 gold pieces: one with attractive, original surfaces and the other with significant hairlining. In reality, the specimens are one and the same. The image at left is what you can expect to see under fluorescent light. The photograph at right shows the effective use of incandescent lighting directed at the coin from a distance of 8 to 20 inches.

Though not considered alterations, counting-wheel marks certainly pose a problem because they adversely affect eye appeal. (Grading services usually will not certify coins displaying such marks.) Caused by machines used to count coins, they appear as

small patches of short, parallel lines that shine brilliantly under incandescent lighting.

The best way to avoid a bad coin purchase is to use an incandescent desk lamp, outfitted with a 75- to 100-watt bulb. (A suitable lamp can be bought for as little as \$24 at most discount stores.) The majority of dealers, both at hobby shops and coin shows, have an incandescent lamp nearby for your use. With correct lighting, your coins will take on a very different appearance.

But lighting alone will not do the trick. You should make the coin "light dynamic" by turning it at different angles, thus varying the reflection off the coin's fields and raised devices.



**This 1886 Morgan dollar displays marks from a counting wheel, which appear as a series of short, parallel lines.**

At first glance, the 1879-S dollar on the next page appears to have relatively problem-free surfaces (top). However, when rotated under an incandescent lamp, the coin exhibits a small patch of hairlines, perhaps created by a motorized wire brush or similar implement.

For more information about surface alterations, see the January, February and March 2000 installments of this column, or contact the ANA Authentication Bureau, 818 North Cascade Avenue, Colorado Springs,



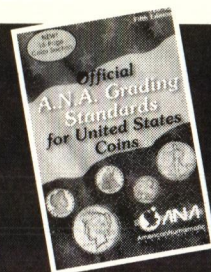


Under incandescent light (bottom), a patch of hairlines is evident on this 1879-S Morgan dollar.

CO 80903-3279, fax 719/634-4085 or E-mail [anamus@money.org](mailto:anamus@money.org).

### Older Counterfeits Resurface

Recently, the ANA Authentication Bureau has witnessed increased sightings of well-known, "older" counterfeits. These include several of the famous "Bay Area" counterfeit cents, "Omega" counterfeits (bearing the "Ω" mark of the counterfeiter), and copies of 18th-century 10-, 25- and 50-cent pieces. Many of these probably were in collections for quite a few years and only recently reentered the marketplace. To suppress their recurrence, please surrender counterfeit coins to the United States Secret Service or donate them to the American Numismatic Association Money Museum for use in educational programs. In most cases, material donations are tax deductible. •



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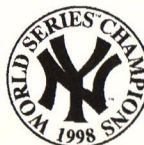
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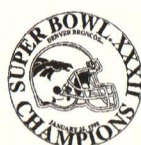


Buddy Kellar • Stephen Gehringer (ANA LM 2714), PNG

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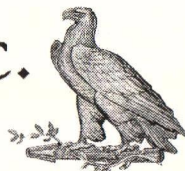


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*THE NUMISMATIST is a controlled-circulation, educational journal published monthly and distributed to all American Numismatic Association (ANA) members as a membership benefit. Circulation is currently 27,500, and each issue averages 120 pages.*

| Ad Size            | Ad Dimensions                       |           | Ad Frequency |         |         |          |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|--------------|---------|---------|----------|
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#### GENERAL INFORMATION

Contracts are available for 3-, 6- and 12-time placement. Frequency will be consecutive unless otherwise scheduled. Page position can be requested for regular advertisements, but cannot be guaranteed. No advertisements will be accepted from minors unless accompanied by a statement of financial responsibility signed by a parent or legal guardian. In keeping with the Hobby Protection Act, advertisements for reproductions or imitations of numismatic items must clearly state that they are not original items. Photographs of these items must show they have been marked with the word "COPY" and must include the date of manufacture. *The Numismatist* specifically reserves the right to edit copy, to require payment in advance, or to decline any advertisement in part or in whole.

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#### BIND-IN CARDS

Contact the ANA Advertising Sales Manager.

#### DEADLINE

To ensure insertion in the desired issue, copy must be received by the 15th of the month (cover ads must be received by the 5th of the month), seven weeks preceding the issue's cover date. Ad copy may be changed each issue, but if new copy is not received from contract advertisers by the deadline, the previous month's ad will be repeated.

#### ADVERTISING GUIDELINES

Ad copy must be legible and not included in the body of a letter or other transmission. New ad copy cannot be accepted over the telephone. The name and ANA number of the firm's principal officer must appear in all advertisements. Requests for photography of numismatic items will be billed at prevailing national rates. Display classified advertisements will be placed under the classification most closely related to the ad's subject. All display classified ads appear without illustrations or logos.

Every effort is made to ensure accuracy in all display advertising. Proofs of full-, half- and quarter-page ads will be provided for review of format and typography. At that time, ad revisions may be requested. Advertisers may be charged for extensive changes requested after deadline. The ANA is not responsible for any errors or omissions noted following the advertiser's approval of the advertisement.

**Full-page ads:** Advertisers should submit desired layout, photographs, artwork and logos. Design specifications will be met as closely as possible. Camera-ready material is accepted, but must be submitted as right-reading, emulsion side down (RRED) negatives and/or resin-coated paper composites with halftones and artwork affixed. Halftones should be 120-line screen. Bleeds are not permitted. Advertisements also can be submitted on 3-inch diskette, 44/88MB removable cartridge or zip disk.

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#### CONTRACT CANCELLATION

Contract cancellation requires notice seven weeks prior to the issue's cover date. Cancelled contracts will be rebilled at the applicable rate.

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Advertisers are required to be members of the American Numismatic Association and must submit the name and ANA membership number of owners and/or principal officers of the firm, as well as one banking and three business references.

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**Direct correspondence and advertising materials, along with ANA member name and number, to ANA Advertising Sales Manager, THE NUMISMATIST, 818 N. Cascade Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80903-3279, 800/556-2646, 719/632-2646, Fax 719-634-4085.**



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## Museum Puts "Two-Bit" Exhibit on the Road

The ANA Money Museum traveling exhibit of United States quarter dollars—"two-bit" coins—made its first appearance at the Shenandoah Valley Coin Club Show on December 2-3, 2000. Entitled "The Quarter Dollar: Bits and Pieces in American History," the exhibit features specimens from early Spanish Colonial coins to the latest releases in the United States Mint's highly successful 50 State Quarters™ Program.

The State quarters series has generated tremendous interest in America's coinage. The quarter dollar is today's workhorse coin and has a wonderful heritage. The ANA Museum installed a quarter-dollar exhibit when the Mint's program began in 1999. It was decided it would be fun and educational to make a traveling version available to our member clubs.

While numismatists are familiar with the story of the quarter and how it was nicknamed, much of the general public is unaware of the coin's legacy. The quarter is a direct descendant of the royal Spanish 2-real coin first struck in the New

World (in Mexico City in 1536).

In addition, the Spanish Milled dollar, which had a value of 8 reales and was known as a "piece of eight," was used regularly in the American colonies. Sometimes it was cut into eight, equal pieces, or "bits," to make small change. So two bits (2 reales) was a quarter of the Spanish Milled dollar, which, in 1792, was formally adopted by the United States as the new nation's official unit of value.

The ANA traveling exhibit features Spanish colonial silver 2-real pieces issued in 1753, 1757 and 1775 in Mexico and Peru. The display also shows a number of U.S. quarters, including an 1835 Capped Bust, 1854 Seated Liberty, 1893 Barber and 1917 Standing Liberty. The last piece was designed by Hermon A. MacNeil, who depicted Liberty with her left arm covered by a shield, symbolizing protection; and her right hand clutching an olive branch of peace. However, controversy arose over the initial design because Liberty's right breast was exposed. Before its first year of production concluded, a covering of chain mail was placed over the offending area.

Until 1932, regular issues of the quarter-dollar coin always bore images of a personification of freedom—"Miss Liberty"—and of the American Eagle. In that year, to celebrate the 200th anniversary of President Washington's birth, his por-

trait by John Flanagan was placed on the 25-cent piece for what originally was intended to be a one-year, commemorative issue. However, with only slight modifications, this popular presentation of Washington has since been retained.

The current 50 State Quarters Program calls for five new reverse designs to be issued each year for a decade, with each design commemorating the nation's states in the order they ratified the Constitution or were admitted to the Union. By the end of the series, the Mint will have issued a greater variety of quarter types than it has produced in its entire history! I can safely say that two-bit coins are likely to be with us for a long time to come.

For more information about the ANA Money Museum or to find out how ANA-member clubs can display this new traveling exhibit, contact the ANA Money Museum. (The E-mail address is [anamus@money.org](mailto:anamus@money.org).)

### 1796 Countermarked Quarter

One of the most interesting quarters in the ANA's collection is included in the Museum's recent exhibit: the rare 1796 issue—possibly the poorest specimen that has survived. However, this piece displays an extremely rare and little-known counterstamp.

On the reverse of this coin, in two lines of incuse lettering, is A.P. BOYNTON/WATCH MAKER. Gregory Brunk, in his *American and Canadian Countermarked Coins* (Rockford, IL: World Exonumia Press, 1987; ANA Library Cat. No. CC53. B7A), lists four known Boynton pieces: two dimes (1837 and 1843) and two quarters (1806 and 1837). He hypothesizes that Boynton may be connected to one Randolph H. Boynton, a documented 19th-century watchmaker in Portland, Maine.

The ANA Museum's rare 1796 quarter (diameter 28.4mm, weight 5.799g) is a worn, countermarked example donated by Werner Amelingmeier.





## The Bard and the Barnyard

*continued from page 47*

Further evidence of the success of the Irish Free State coinage is the fact that when Canada and Australia redesigned their coins in the 1930s, many of the new motifs portrayed indigenous animals.

### Monetary Modernization

IN 1937 IRELAND adopted a new constitution, changing the name of the country from *Saorstát Éireann* to *Éire* (Ireland). Coins issued after 1937 reflect this change with a revised inscription. The next three decades brought modifications to the substance of Irish coinage: the composition of the silver and nickel coins was changed to copper-nickel, and, after 1959, the farthing no longer was struck for circulation. Still, throughout this entire period, the barnyard series of coins remained essentially as it was designed under Yeats' leadership.

Dramatic changes were on the horizon, however. In the mid 1960s, Great Britain began making preparations to decimalize its currency. At this time, the Irish pound was equivalent to the British pound, and it was estimated that 10 to 25 percent of the coins circulating in Ireland were British. Thus, it made sense for Ireland to decimalize when Great Britain did so in February 1971.

Under the decimal system, there still was some sense of continuity with the old Irish coinage. For example, the traditional shilling was equal to 5 pence, and the florin was equal to 10 pence. The new 5- and 10-pence coins were identical in composition and design to the old shilling and florin, except for the presentation of the denomination. The half crown, sixpence and three-

pence were removed from circulation, as were the bronze penny and halfpenny. The new heptagonal (seven-sided) 50-pence coin revived the woodcock design from the pre-decimal farthing, while the decimal bronze halfpenny, penny and two-pence coins featured an ornamental bird from a medieval Irish manuscript. (It has been reported that Metcalfe heartily approved of these new designs.)

The initial decimal coinage underwent a metamorphosis of its own in the following decades. In 1979 the link between the Irish pound and the British pound was broken, and from then on each currency was allowed to float independently. (Currently, the British pound is worth about \$1.45, and the Irish pound [*punt*, in Gaelic] about \$1.10.)

In addition, the physical similarity of Irish and British coinage yielded to a gradual divergence in the 1980s and '90s. In 1986 Ireland introduced a nickel-bronze 20 pence with a yellowish color; the reverse design was a revival of Metcalfe's horse from the pre-decimal half crown. In 1990 a copper-nickel pound was introduced, with a reverse design portraying a red deer. Although this design was new, the subject and execution fit thematically with the barnyard series. Also at this time, there was a plan to revive the wolfhound and hare designs from the old sixpence and threepence, respectively, placing them on the penny and twopence when these coins were changed to bronze-plated steel. However, this was never implemented.

In 1992 a smaller, five-pence piece was introduced, and in 1993 a smaller 10 pence debuted. In both cases, the designs were retained, except that the figures of the bull (5 pence) and the salmon (10 pence)

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faced left rather than right. Still, even with such changes, Irish circulating coinage retains much of the substance and the spirit of the republic's original coinage, nearly 75 years after the introduction of Yeats' barnyard series.

However, this is not to be in the 21st century. Ireland has been a member of the European Union since 1973 and will adopt a single currency along with 11 other European states. On January 1, 2002, these countries officially trade their national currencies for the *euro*, which is worth about 0.79 punt. The new coins will feature a standard, shared reverse design, but the obverses will carry themes specific to each country. Even though nations are not required to choose the same design for every denomination, Ireland has elected to place the symbolic harp on the "national" side of each of its euro coins.

Thus, the Irish people prepare for the end of an era; the barnyard series soon will pass into the dusty realm of history. Still, we can appreciate the moment when a new nation, an esteemed poet and a talented sculptor came together to create an outstanding coinage. •

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*Mitch Sanders' numismatic interests include Canadian, French and Mexican coinage. Currently, he teaches political science at the University of Rochester in New York. His most recent article for THE NUMISMATIST, "Houdon and U.S. Coin Design," appeared in the March 2000 issue.*

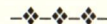
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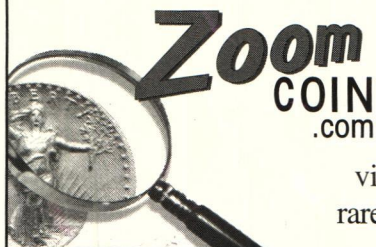
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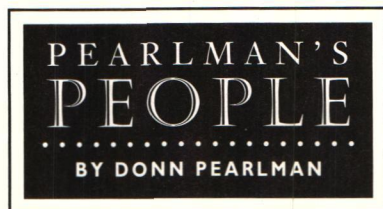
# Is That Your Final Prediction?

**A**LRIGHT, ALREADY. So, it's 2001. Is this *finally* the "New Millennium"? Do you really feel any different now than you did a year ago when people thought 2000 was the start of the "New Era"? No matter. It is, indeed, January, and this column hereby presents its 198th annual New Year's numismatic, psychic predictions. Remember, you read it here first.

**FUN WITH NUMBERS:** Taking a cue from other Sunshine State elections, leaders of Florida United Numismatists (FUN) will conduct recount-after-recount of the latest election for its board of directors. The controversy will be sparked when Ralph Nader, who isn't even on the FUN ballot, apparently receives more votes than two incumbents. Eventually, the FUN election is declared "too close to call" by six television and cable networks, and the outcome must be decided by the ANA Board—but only after three years of arduous committee meetings.

**MISMADE MONEY:** During the first three months of the New Year, 87 new "mule" Mint errors will be reported. These will include the following precedent-setting obverse/reverse combinations: a 2001 Lincoln cent with a Wheat Ears back; a Sacagawea dollar obverse with a Susan B. Anthony reverse, struck on a Bulgarian 50-stotinka planchet; and a silver 1964 Washington quarter obverse paired with the reverse of a 2006 South Dakota commemorative—a design that won't even be approved by the Treasury Secretary for another four years.

**FUNNY MONEY FOLLOW-UP:** Bolstered by the overwhelming sales of its "prosperity notes" (\$1 bills



whose serial numbers begin with four consecutive 8s), the Bureau of Engraving and Printing will take the advice of Los Angeles business news broadcaster Alan Mendelson and create "Las Vegas notes." The serial numbers on these will feature four consecutive 7s. For an additional fee, collectors can choose portraits of either "Young Elvis" or "Old Elvis" in place of George Washington.

**SUNKEN TREASURES—PART ONE:** Two of the most amazing discoveries will be hauled up this year. First, the S.S. *Lost in America* will be salvaged. While not directly related to numismatics, this treasure trove does involve money. Tens of thousands of politicians' broken promises to cut taxes and reduce spending will be brought to the bubbly surface from their dumping ground in the Potomac River near Washington, D.C.

**SUNKEN TREASURES—PART TWO:** The front page of every coin publication in the world will be filled with news about the long-awaited discovery of the S.S. *Minnow* and its eye-opening treasures accumulated during a three-hour cruise in September 1964. Coin companies will compete

for the rights to sell the recovered cache of the stranded *Gilligan's Island* castaways, including billionaire Thurston Howell III's wallet stuffed with Series 1933 \$10 silver certificates.

**COMMEMORATIVE QUARTERS:** Bedazzled by the success of the Mint's wildly popular 50 State Quarters™ Program, Congress will authorize an extension of the original 10-year project. Years 11 through 28 will include coins commemorating every territory, trust, possession, commonwealth, province and prefecture ever controlled by the United States, or the site of any condo or time-share owned by any member of Congress, past or present. There will be mass confusion when collectors mistakenly believe the Northern Mariana Islands commemoratives are named after one of the *Gilligan's Island* characters.

**BELIEVE IT OR NOT:** During 2001, at least three people will reveal that they actually collect coins or paper money merely for hobby enjoyment, with absolutely no thought of financial profit. No one will believe them. •

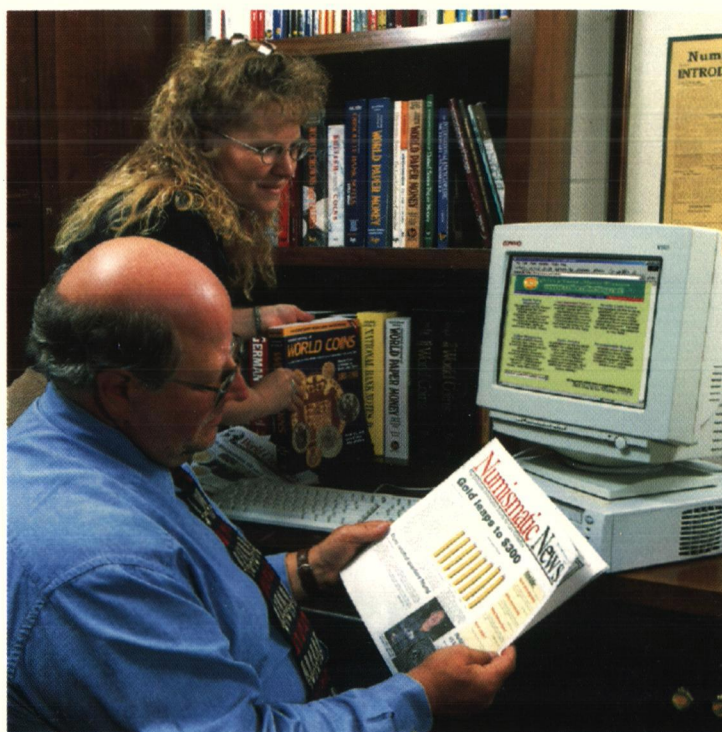
*Psychic prognosticator and former ANA Governor Donn Pearlman (P.O. Box 750, Skokie, IL 60076 or [Donnpr@aol.com](mailto:Donnpr@aol.com)) claims a 100-percent accuracy rate; however, he predicts a possible recount.*

**CAST YOUR VOTES**  
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**Readers' "Top Ten" Poll**  
see page 21



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**\*OCTOBER 16, 17, 18, 2001**

United States Gold, Silver & Copper Coins, U.S. Paper Money. To be sold in New York City.

**\*NOVEMBER 7, 2001**

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